CITY HILIGHTS

The Truth Speaks

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Cong abandoned tribals, BJP restored their dignity: Modi

AHMEDABAD

Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched a blistering political attack on the Congress while speaking on Janjatiya Gaurav Divas on Saturday in Gujarat.

Accusing the Congress of abandoning tribal communities for six decades and failing to recognise their contributions, the PM highlighted the BJP's record of expanding welfare spending, building institutions, and elevating Adivasi leaders to national prominence since 2014.

He invoked history, saying tribal sacrifices in the freedom struggle were suppressed to glorify 'a few families', and asserted that his government restored long-overdue honour to tribal icons and communities across India.

'Malnutrition, poor health services, broken connectivity and the absence of education became the 'forced identity' of tribal regions as previous governments refused to intervene'

"The malnutrition, poor health services, broken connectivity and the absence of education became the "forced identity" of tribal regions as previous governments refused to intervene," he said, adding that "They sat idle while an entire community struggled."

Deadly explosion rips through Kashmir police station, 9 killed

The blast tore through Nowgam police station, torching vehicles and shattering windows in nearby homes; J&K DGP says the explosion was accidental

JAMMU

At least nine people were killed and 32 others were injured after a cache of confiscated explosives detonated inside the Nowgam police station on the outskirts of Srinagar on Friday night.

The region's Director General of Police, Nalin Prabhat, said the blast occurred when a team of forensic experts and police were extracting samples from a cache of explosives seized in the Faridabad terror module case.

According to officials, the blast was triggered by the unstable nature of the chemicals, which was part of the 360 kg of explosives, including ammonium nitrate, recovered from the rented accommodation of arrested accused Dr Muzammil Ganaie from Faridabad and stored at the police station.

The blast caused extensive damage to the building and set several vehicles in the compound on fire. Windowpanes of nearby houses were also shattered, and the impact was felt few kilometres away.

Those killed included three personnel from the Forensic Science Laboratory, two from the Revenue Department, including a Naib Tehsildar, two police photographers, one member of the State Investigation Agency, and a tailor, who was called to assist the police investigators to collect samples of the explosives seized from a "white collar" terror module busted recently. The tailor has been identified as Mohammad Shafi Parray (47), a tailor by profession.

Wake-up call for Centre, can't run from accountability: Kharge

NEW DELHI: Congress National president Mallikarjun Kharge on Saturday expressed grief over the explosion inside the Nowgam police station in Jammu and Kashmir's (J&K) Srinagar, in which many people were killed and dozens injured. He said that it's a wake-up call for the Centre to strengthen the Intelligence and anti-terror mechanisms. In a post on X, Kharge said, "It is extremely disconcerting and sad to know that 9 precious lives have been lost and 29 people have been injured in a blast at a police station in Nowgam, Jammu & Kashmir. My deepest condolences to the families of those who have lost their loved ones."

DELHI BLAST: AGENCIES DETAIN 3 MORE DOCS

CHANDIGARH

A surgeon from Pathankot in Punjab, who had earlier worked at Al-Falah University, has been detained in the Delhi Red Fort blast. Additionally, two doctors from Nuh and two fertilizer and seed sellers were picked up from Sohna in Haryana.

The Al-Falah University in Faridabad continues to remain under the scanner of multiple central and state agencies, with revenue officials checking the university's land records and measurements. Meanwhile, the National Medical Commission (NMC) has cancelled the registrations of the four doctors involved in the terror module behind the blast on November 10.

Sources said that 45-year old Dr Rayees Ahmad Bhat, who is presently associated with White Medical College in Pathankot, was detained by the central agencies and is being questioned after investigators found that he was allegedly in touch with Dr Umar Nabi the main master mind of the Delhi Red Fort blast in which a dozen people died. Bhat worked at the Al-Falah University from 2020 to 2021. The investigators found that Dr Bhat was in regular touch with staff at the university.

Siddu meets RaGa in New Delhi, keep mum on Karnataka politics

CM Siddaramaiah with party leaders at the launch of the 100th edition of "Dil Se with Kapil Sibal" in New Delhi on Saturday ▸ CH Photos

NEW DELHI

Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Saturday met top Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Saturday and instilled confidence with the Gandhi family scion following the Congress party's massive defeat in the Bihar assembly polls.

Siddaramaiah was in Delhi to attend a book release programme of former Union Minister and senior advocate Kapil Sibal.

The CM meeting with Rahul Gandhi fueled political speculation amid talk of 'November Revolution' of possible change of leadership in Karnataka.

However, the CM categorically told media that "Karnataka political issue including long pending cabinet rejig or any other issues was not discussed with Rahul. This meeting was only to discuss the outcome of Bihar polls."

The CM said he, along with Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy met Rahul. Congress General Secretary (Organisation) K C Venugopal and other party central leaders were also present. The meeting lasted for 15 minutes, in which both Siddaramaiah and

in which both Siddaramaiah and Reddy reposed faith in Rahul leadership and vowed to extend full support to his fight against the BJP and its agenda. "Since the Congress suffered a setback in the Bihar assembly polls, me and Revanth Reddy went to meet Rahul. Both of us instilled confidence with Rahul. We also extended full support to his fight against the BJP and its agenda. Together we will continue to fight against the BJP," the CM said.

28 blackbucks die of bacterial infection in Belagavi zoo

BELAGAVI

A sudden wave of deaths at the Kittur Rani Chennamma Zoo in Belagavi has triggered alarm within Karnataka's Forest Department, after 28 blackbucks perished within three days under unexplained circumstances.

Zoo authorities confirmed that the facility housed 38 blackbucks, of which only 10 now remain. Assistant Conservator of Forest Nagaraj Balhasuri said eight blackbucks died two days earlier, with another 20 succumbing on Saturday. He noted that the zoo's veterinary team suspects a bacterial infection, though the precise cause is yet to be determined. "We have sent the viscera sample to the authorities at Bannerghatta Zoological Park in Bengaluru to find out the reason behind the death," Balhasuri told reporters.

Preliminary findings suggest a bacterial infection as the cause of the mass deaths, raising serious concerns over the alleged negligence of the zoo's veterinary doctors and forest staff.

According to experts, the toll could have been significantly lower had the infected animals been identified early and immediately isolated from the herd. The failure to monitor the health of the animals and take timely action is being viewed as a major lapse.

Forest Min Khandre orders probe

Bengaluru: Expressing deep concern over the unnatural death of 28 deer at the Kittur Rani Chennamma Kiru Zoo in Bhutaramanahatti, Belgaum, Forest, Biology and Environment Minister Eshwar B Khandre has ordered a probe. According to preliminary reports, these deer died of an infectious disease,. The Minister has directed that all precautionary measures be taken to prevent any other animal in the zoo from getting infected, and ordered for forming an expert committee to probe whether these deer died after consuming contaminated water and food.

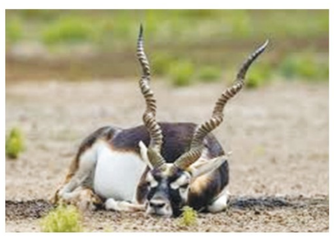
ANIMAL MORTALITY IN K'TAKA IN 2025

Bannerghatta Park, B'luru

- In July 2025, three tiger cubs (from tigress Hima Das) died shortly after birth. The mother abandoned the cubs, and they succumbed to injuries (cervical, head bite, and stampede) despite attempts at hand-rearing.
- A pregnant zebra died in June 2025. Officials are investigating the cause, which might be related to stress from wild wandering leopards in the area
- A 15-year-old male leopard named Arjun died in September 2025 due to pyothorax and septicemia
- A rescued wild bear died in March 2025 from myocardial infarction and liver septicemia after being brought in for treatment

Pilikula Park, Mangaluru

- In July 2025, six animals died, including a Malabar giant squirrel, four toddy cats, and a mouse deer fawn. The squirrel died of old age, while inbreeding issues were suspected for the fawn.



Broader Wildlife Mortality (outside zoos)

5 tigers died in the MM Hills sanctuary, a case that reached the SC.

20 peacocks were found dead on farmland in a village near Hanumanthapura in August 2025.

19 monkeys died in the Bandipur area.

The state has seen an increase in human-wildlife conflict related deaths, including tigers and elephants, with 82 tiger deaths recorded in Karnataka in the last five-and-a-half years (up to July 2025).

ED files chargesheet in MUDA scam

BENGALURU

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has filed a chargesheet against former MUDA commissioner Dinesh Kumar in the site allotment scam before the special court for elected representatives.

The chargesheet mentions that Dinesh Kumar accumulated assets worth Rs 25 crore in the names of his family members, created forged documents and sold the assets to those he wished.

It also states that he carried out bank transactions in the name of his domestic help, Ramesh, and bought property valued at Rs 1.5 crore for just Rs 2 lakh. After that, he again forged documents and sold the property to others, and those records have been included in the chargesheet.

Next, BJP-JD(S) will snatch K'taka from Cong: HDK

NEW DELHI

Union Minister H D Kumaraswamy on Friday said the BJP and JD(S) coalition will fight together in the next assembly polls in Karnataka and defeat the ruling Congress.

He predicted that the state will witness a Bihar-like result in the next Assembly elections, suggesting the Congress will lose in Karnataka in the next assembly polls.

"Already there is an anti-Congress wave in Karnataka. The Congress has spent two-and-a-half years by only deliberating on leadership. People who had high hopes and gave the Congress the mandate with 136 seats are disappointed.

People are now awaiting the next elections and ready to teach Congress a lesson," Kumaraswamy told reporters here.

The Bihar election has taught a lesson to the Congress for its "false propaganda" on the "vote chori" campaign and levelling false allegations against the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of the voters' list.

'PURIFICATION' EFFORT!

K Jayakumar takes charge as prez of gold scam-tainted Travancore Devaswom Board

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Amid the controversy over the Sabarimala gold theft case that has cast a shadow over the Kerala government and the temple administration, former chief secretary K Jayakumar took charge as president of the Travancore Devaswom Board (TDB) on Saturday.

As veteran, now retired bureaucrat Jayakumar assumes charge as the new TDB president on Saturday, shockwaves from the ongoing probe into the Sabarimala gold heist have unsettled the CPI(M)'s top brass, including Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan.

The arrest of five people earlier this week, culminating in the dramatic detention of N Vasu, a two-time former Devaswom commissioner, former TDB president and long-time confidant of Chief Minister Vijayan — has pushed the party into an uncomfortable defensive posture.

Vasu's arrest, insiders admit, has sparked anxiety within the leadership as the Kerala High Court-appointed Special Investigation Team continues its enquiry without interference from the Chief Minister's Office.

Jayakumar, who replaces CPI-M member PS Prasanth, steps into the role at a moment of unprecedented scrutiny.

While his administrative credentials are widely acknowledged, he is expected to face pressure from the CPI(M)-backed unions that wield significant clout in the Board.

QUICK READ

NDA legislative party to meet on Monday

PATNA

The process to form the new government in Bihar will begin on Monday, paving the way for Nitish Kumar to become the Chief Minister for a record tenth-time. Following the state cabinet meeting, CM Nitish Kumar will proceed to Raj Bhavan to submit his resignation to the Governor Arif Mohammad Khan. He will then come back to his residence where a meeting of the NDA legislative party will be held.

Bangladeshis rally against minority sect

DHAKA

Tens of thousands of demonstrators gathered in Bangladesh's capital on Saturday to demand that followers of a tiny Muslim sect be declared infidels, in a show of force for hardliners ahead of elections. The Ahmadiya community, followers of a branch of Sufism that has its origins in 19th-century India, have long been persecuted in Muslim-majority Bangladesh.

Indonesia interested in buying BrahMos: Rajnath

LUCKNOW

Indonesia has made a bid to purchase the BrahMos missile, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said on Saturday. "Indonesia has requested to purchase the BrahMos missile being manufactured in Lucknow," Singh said, addressing the BJP workers here.

Singh and UP CM Yogi Adityanath flagged off the first batch of BrahMos missiles manufactured at the BrahMos Aerospace unit here on October 18.

‘Clean City’ drive builds momentum in Bengaluru

Filth removal, footpath encroachment clearance, ward-level inspections, awareness programmes are being taken up across the city

BENGALURU

Bengaluru North City Corporation (BNCC) Commissioner Pommala Sunil Kumar has asked officials to create strong awareness among all shop owners about keeping dustbins outside their shops and disposing of waste responsibly.

He said this step is important to keep every street clean and build good habits among public.

On Saturday morning, while visiting Ward 20 in Ganganagar of Hebbal division, the Commissioner checked the auto and pourakarmika mastering points and gave clear instructions to them to maintain cleanliness on main roads and also guide shopkeepers regularly on proper waste management.

Footpath clearance drive

An intensive footpath clearance drive was carried out in many areas. In OMBR Layout, officials cleared 20 shops and 12 pushcarts that were blocking both sides of the 4th Cross footpaths. They also removed 0.4 km of illegal OFC cable. In HRBR Layout, nine pushcarts encroaching on the 1st Block footpaths were cleared. A total of 35 workers and 10 tractors were used for this major operation.

During a meeting on ward-level maintenance and grievance handling, the Commissioner noted that some employees, including teachers and Junior Health Inspectors, faced delays in receiving their salaries. He instructed that salaries for all officers and staff must always be paid on time without any exception.

He also ordered officials to quickly resolve complaints received during the Walk with Bengaluru programme at JP Park led by the Deputy Chief Minister, as well as issues raised in the weekly Friday Phone-In programme.

The Commissioner told engineers to complete all development works within the city limits quickly and with good quality. He asked them to provide updates on payment of work bills.

Additional Commissioner Latha R, Joint Commissioners Mohammed Naem Momin and Pallavi, and other officials attended the meeting.

Officials inspect mechanical sweeping machines, parks, and lakes under city limits

BENGALURU

Lokhande Snehal Sudhakar, Additional Commissioner (Development) of Bengaluru East City Corporation (BECC), on Saturday inspected the condition of mechanical sweeping machines, parks, and lakes under the corporation’s limits.

During the review of the mechanical sweeping machine, several operational issues were noticed. The Additional Commissioner instructed officials that the machine should only be used for routine cleaning after it is re-evaluated and confirmed to meet the required standards.

The inspection of parks included Garudachar Palya, Kundalahalli Lake Parks, Mahadevapura Lake Park, and AECS Layout D-Block Park. At Garudachar Palya and Kundalahalli Lake Parks, officials were asked to strengthen routine maintenance to ensure cleanliness, greenery, and a pleasant experience for visitors. At Mahadevapura Lake Park, daily watering of plants and strict maintenance protocols were emphasized to preserve greenery.

At AECS Layout D-Block Park, upgrades were directed, including replacing damaged gym seats, improving children’s play equipment, painting and replacing benches, pruning shrubs, and maintaining overall cleanliness.

The Additional Commissioner also reviewed ongoing rejuvenation works at Kundalahalli Lake, including diversion drains, desilting, and fencing. Officials were instructed to expedite pending work and complete restoration on schedule.

Snehal Sudhakar stressed that regular, effective, and sustainable maintenance of parks and lakes is essential to provide citizens with clean, safe, and green spaces. Chief Engineer Lokesh, Executive Engineer Uday Chougale, Senior Assistant Director (Horticulture) Vijayalakshmi Sanganal, and other officials were present during the inspection.

In-depth cleanliness drive makes eastern parts better

BENGALURU

The Bengaluru East City Corporation (BeCC) carried out a mass cleanliness drive on Saturday to make the area cleaner, greener and healthier.

The drive was held under the instructions of Commissioner D.S. Ramesh and led by Additional Commissioner (Development) Lokhande Snehal Sudhakar. Large teams worked across KR Puram and Mahadevapura constituencies to clear waste, remove blockages and improve road safety.

In the KR Puram Assembly Constituency, cleaning work was done along TC Palya Main Road, from Ramamurthy Nagar Bridge to Bhattarahalli, covering nearly 8 km. Assistant Executive Engineer Jagadish and Assistant General Manager Sreenidhi supervised the work. In the Mahadevapura Assembly Constituency, the cleaning team covered about 12 km on State Highway–35, from Varthur Kodi Junction to Kadugodi Bridge, under the guidance of Executive Engineer Ravikumar and Assistant General Manager Jyoti Choulkar.

During the operation, workers removed 55 tonnes of silt, C&D waste and other waste. Old household items were collected and weeds were cleared. Officials also gave instructions to remove dangerous tree branches. Around 3,600 meters of loose cables were taken down. A total of 82 advertisement banners and flex boards were removed. Roadside drains and medians were cleaned. Officials also seized 100 kg of single-use plastic and collected a fine of ₹35,000. Footpath encroachments were cleared to make walking safer.

To support this large operation, the Corporation deployed 20 tractors, 8 auto tippers, 2 jeep ladders, 1 tree-cutting vehicle, 1 JCB and 160 pourakarmikas.

Additional Commissioner Lokhande Snehal Sudhakar said that similar drives will continue in more areas to keep East Bengaluru clean and healthy. Joint Commissioners, engineers, health staff, marshals and pourakarmikas took part in the drive.

QUICK READ

B’luru autos ignore fare revision, commuters irked

Bengaluru

Nearly four months after autorickshaw fares were revised in Bengaluru, most drivers continue to operate without updating their meters, frustrating commuters. The minimum fare rose from ₹30 to ₹36 for the first 2 km, with per-km charges increasing to ₹18, effective August 1. Despite a Transport Department deadline of October 31, compliance remains low, as many drivers rely on app-based bookings and bypass meters altogether. Commuters report being asked for inflated fares on street-hailed rides. Authorities said stricter inspections will follow, warning drivers of penalties. Bengaluru has over 3.6 lakh registered autos, though many remain off the road.

Viral diarrhea suspected among Kanakapura residents

Bengaluru

Many residents of Prestige Falcon City on Kanakapura Road have fallen ill with stomach ache, diarrhea, and vomiting over the past weeks. A medical team from Bengaluru South City Corporation has been camping in the 9,000-strong community since November 12, monitoring cases. Hospital records show 46 gastroenteritis cases between October 6 and November 12. Officials suspect viral diarrhea but await water test results from the Public Health Institute. Residents have disinfected storage tanks and stopped outside tanker water. Authorities have advised using boiled water and following hygiene practices. No outbreak has been confirmed so far.

Ajman Free Zone celebrates strong first-year growth

BENGALURU

The Ajman NuVentures Centre Free Zone (ANCFZ) has marked a major milestone by completing its first year with more than 6,500 new businesses registered. Launched in October 2024, the Free Zone has quickly become one of the UAE’s fastest-growing hubs, attracting large numbers of Indian entrepreneurs with its simple, affordable, and fully digital setup process.

ANCFZ Chairman Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdullah Al Nuaimi said this success reflects Ajman’s rising status as a modern business destination aligned with Ajman Vision 2030. He noted that the confidence shown by thousands of entrepreneurs highlights the strength of Ajman’s forward-looking economic policies and its digital-first approach. In the past year, ANCFZ has transformed business formation by offering a fully digital platform where investors can secure a business licence in just two hours and complete visa procedures within 24 hours. While the system is digital, a dedicated team handles paperwork, approvals, licensing, and compliance, giving investors a smooth, stress-free experience. This hybrid model allows entrepreneurs to focus completely on growth while ANCFZ manages the operations.

CEO Rishi Somaiya said the Free Zone aims to empower a new generation of entrepreneurs with simple, technology-driven solutions. ANCFZ’s investor base now represents more than 150 nationalities, reflecting Ajman’s growing global reach and the UAE’s strong reputation as a hub for innovation. The Free Zone supports both traditional and new-age sectors, including AI, digital gaming, blockchain, and creative technology. Its option to include up to ten activities under one licence adds to its appeal.

ANCFZ offers all-inclusive packages starting at AED 10,800, covering licences, visas, and workspace support. Its strategic location provides easy links to key markets across the Middle East, Africa, and Asia.

Police bust fake Nandini ghee network

BENGALURU

Bengaluru police have uncovered a network selling fake Nandini ghee, seizing 8,000 liters worth Rs 1.5 crore. Four people involved in the operation have been arrested, including KMF distributor Mahendra, his son Deepak, and two suppliers, Muniraju and Abhi Arasu.

The accused were reportedly supplying adulterated ghee to Nandini parlors across the city. Investigations revealed that some of the fake ghee was manufactured outside Karnataka and packed in bottles and packets before being sent to Bengaluru. One supplier sourced the ghee from Tamil Nadu, while the distributor and his son helped circulate it within the city.

Police acted swiftly to stop the network and recovered both the ghee and Rs 1.5 crore in cash. The authorities have confirmed that the operation was illegal and posed health risks to the public, as adulterated ghee can cause serious harm if consumed.

Officials have urged the public to be cautious while buying dairy products and report any suspicious activity to the police. They also emphasized that the crackdown demonstrates the city’s commitment to protecting consumers from fraudulent food products.

The four arrested individuals are currently in police custody, and further investigations are underway to identify any additional participants in the network. Authorities are closely monitoring supply chains to prevent similar incidents in the future.

City needs development, but not at the cost of environ, public safety: Shobha

BENGALURU

Union Minister Shobha Karandlaje strongly warned the state government against taking up development projects that harm Bengaluru’s environment and affect people’s lives.

She said the city needs development, but not at the cost of its natural spaces and public safety.

Speaking during a signature campaign and inspection visit near the main entrance of Sanki Lake at 18th Cross, Malleswaram, the Minister said the Congress government has already damaged Bengaluru’s lakes, green spaces and natural surroundings. She accused the government of constructing unscientific flyovers and destroying Sanki Lake in the name of development.

Karandlaje criticised the Detailed Project Report (DPR) prepared for the proposed tunnel road, calling it unscientific and rushed. She said Bengaluru deserves a proper, well-studied DPR that prioritises environmental protection.

“Bengaluru was once known as the city of gardens and lakes. But today, for the sake of commissions, the government has brought an unscientific DPR. We will oppose this strongly,” she said.

She alleged that projects like the tunnel road threaten to destroy important places such as Sanki Tank, Lalbagh and Cubbon Park. Many lakes, she added, have already disappeared due to real-estate scams, and now more natural spaces are under threat.

“What is the need to prepare the DPR in such a hurry?” she asked.

Karandlaje questioned which experts and teams were involved in preparing the DPR. She demanded clarity on whether environmental damage, cultural impact and pollution effects were studied in detail. She said that calling for tenders without proper scientific study is unacceptable and dangerous for the city’s future.

The Minister emphasised that development must be responsible and sustainable, and not carried out in a way that harms Bengaluru’s ecosystem or the well-being of its people.

Central leadership expected to resolve leadership issue: BYV

BENGALURU:

BJP state president B.Y. Vijayendra said he is confident that the party high command will soon give clear guidance about the confusion surrounding the BJP state president post in Karnataka. Speaking at the party office in Bengaluru, he responded to questions about the ongoing uncertainty. He said he already has clarity and hinted indirectly that he is continuing to serve as the working state president. His statement suggested that the party leadership will soon settle all doubts and make the situation clear for everyone. Vijayendra also spoke about the recent Bihar Assembly election results. He said the people of Bihar have strongly supported the NDA once again. He explained that the opposition tried to confuse voters by accusing the BJP of stealing votes, but the people did not accept those claims. According to him, voters remembered the difficult “Jungle Raj” period of the past and chose the NDA again because they wanted a peaceful and development-focused “Mangal Raj.” He accused the Congress of using a divisive political strategy both in Bihar and across the country, saying such politics will not help them earn people’s trust. He also targeted Rahul Gandhi, saying the Bihar results send a clear message about his leadership. He claimed Rahul Gandhi’s presence weakens his own party, and added that Rahul Gandhi has now disappeared from the country after the election outcome. Vijayendra said the Congress cannot tolerate the BJP’s development work, which is why they make statements against the party both within India and outside. He said they continue to speak about “vote theft” without any real proof.

NEED SLUG

BJP celebrates Bihar sweep in Bengaluru

Bihar poll rout dampens Cong momentum in K’taka

BENGALURU:

The crushing defeat of the Congress in the Bihar elections has created ripples in Karnataka, dampening internal calls for a leadership shake-up and stalling discussions on revolution or restructuring within the state party. Analysts say the high command is likely to adopt a wait-and-watch strategy, avoiding any immediate leadership changes to prevent further confusion. Sources indicate that the Bihar setback has strengthened CM Siddaramaiah’s position, sending a clear signal that his chair remains untouchable for now.

BENGALURU

BJP workers from the Yeshwantpur Assembly Constituency celebrated the NDA alliance’s victory in the Bihar elections with great enthusiasm on Saturday. The celebration took place at Dr. Raj Kumar Circle in Kengeri, where party members distributed sweets to the public and shared the joy of the election results.

M. Rudresh, State Vice President of the BJP Raita Morcha, said many opposition leaders had accused the NDA of vote manipulation during the Bihar polls. He added that some even attempted to lure voters with money. However, according to him, the people of Bihar rejected all such attempts and chose to give the NDA a clear and strong mandate. Rudresh also claimed that ever since Prime Minister Narendra Modi took office, the BJP has secured several victories across the country.

He contrasted this with Rahul Gandhi’s leadership, stating that Congress suffered repeated defeats under him.

Former BBMP member R. Anjanappa also spoke at the celebration. He said Rahul Gandhi attempted to mislead people by spreading false claims about EVM hacking and voter fraud. The voters of Bihar, he said, responded strongly by rejecting such claims and supporting the NDA. Anjanappa added that the Congress should take this result as a lesson and rethink its approach.

Hundreds of NDA supporters gathered at the celebration spot, turning the area into a festive scene. The event drew the participation of several party leaders, including former BBMP member R. Anjanappa, BJP Backward Classes State Executive Member R. P. Prakash, former BBMP nominee Sudhir, Bengaluru North District Backward Classes Vice President J. Ramesh, Ullal Ward former president Sasikumar, BJP Women’s General Secretary Lavanya, and leaders Spot Nagaraj and Tara.

QUICK READ

6 killed in fatal chain collision near Panambur signal

Mangaluru

Six people died in a chain collision near the Panambur signal on NH-66 on Saturday morning. The victims were auto driver Mohammed Kunchi (25) of Ullal and passengers Aboobakar (65) and Ibrahim (68) from Monteladavu, Konaje. A car occupant, Anand Sanil, was injured. Police said a tanker hit an auto from behind, crushing it between two tankers and pushing it into a car. Truck driver Mohammed Sheikh has been arrested. Police inspected the spot and shifted the bodies to a private hospital.

MCC orders institutions to control stray dogs in premises

Mangaluru

The Mangaluru City Corporation (MCC) has directed all educational institutions, hospitals, sports complexes, bus stands and railway stations to inspect their premises for stray dogs and submit a report within five days. The notice says institutions must prevent stray dog issues and control their movement. Each institution must appoint a staff member as a nodal officer to assist MCC in relocating dogs. As per Supreme Court rules, repeat relocation costs will be recovered, and violations may lead to legal action.

IT Dept raids Life Line Company on the allegations of tax evasion

IT dept raid Life Line Feeds in Chikkamagaluru over suspected tax evasion, seizing documents from multiple locations

CHIKKAMAGALURU

The Income Tax Department carried out extensive raids on Life Line Feeds (India) Pvt. Ltd. in Chikkamagaluru following allegations of tax evasion. The operation included searches at the residence of company owner Kishore Kumar Hegde, the company office on Ratnagiri Road, and the farmhouse associated with the business.

Officials, numbering more than 40 and arriving in over 12 vehicles, scrutinised documents in the presence of the company owner. The raids were conducted independently, without prior intimation to the local police authorities.

Life Line Feeds (India) Pvt. Ltd. is a poultry company engaged in the export of products to both domestic and international markets. The Income Tax officials are examining financial records and other relevant documents as part of the investigation to uncover any discrepancies in tax filings.

This operation highlights the department's ongoing efforts to ensure compliance with tax regulations and prevent tax evasion in the corporate sector. The raids were conducted swiftly, drawing attention due to the scale and coordination of the personnel involved.

Further details regarding the findings of the Income Tax investigation are yet to be released. The company and its management are cooperating with officials during the process. The action comes amid growing scrutiny of business operations in the region to curb illegal practices and strengthen transparency.

Authorities have assured that the probe will continue thoroughly to determine if any legal violations have occurred. The outcome of the investigation may have significant implications for the company and its stakeholders.

Fmr MLA Bhat demands cancellation of Malpe land lease

UDUPI

Former MLA Raghupathi Bhat demands the cancellation of a 9.5-acre land lease at Malpe harbour, alleging misuse of power and warning of negative impact on tourism and local livelihoods.

Former MLA K. Raghupathi Bhat has demanded the immediate cancellation of the Karnataka Maritime Board's decision to lease 9.5 acres of land at Malpe harbour to the fisheries marketing federation headed by Udupi MLA Yashpal Suvarna. The lease was recently cleared at a meeting chaired by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah.

Bhat criticised the government for favouring an organisation led by a sitting MLA while repeatedly ignoring proposals related to the development of the Udupi constituency. He questioned whether there was any hidden understanding behind the decision and said the approval raised serious doubts.

Bhat pointed out that the proposed land is located close to important tourist spots such as the Sea Walk, tourist jetty and Hanuman Vitoba Bhajana Mandir. He said Union Minister of State for Fisheries L. Murugan had earlier recommended the same area for the fourth stage expansion of the Malpe fishing harbour. He added that local bhajana mandalis had also sought allotment of the land for community activities.

Calling the decision anti-public, Bhat urged the government to cancel the lease and hand over the land to the Malpe Beach Development Committee. The committee includes five bhajana mandalis that have contributed to the growth of Malpe as a major tourist attraction.

He expressed fear that the fisheries federation may allow fish meal, fish oil or similar units on the leased land, which could cause pollution and disturb the surrounding residential locality. Such activities, he said, would harm tourism and livelihoods.

Bhat further said that infrastructure worth ₹8 crore has already been developed in the area, including ₹4 crore for the jetty, ₹2 crore for the sea walk and ₹2 crore for parking facilities. Public anger is rising, he warned, and a protest will be launched if the government does not withdraw the order.

Podar School begins sports meet with pride

MANGALURU

Podar International School, Mangaluru, held the grand inaugural ceremony of its 8th Annual Sports Meet, Udaan 2025, on Saturday with great enthusiasm and respect. The programme was attended by principal Girish Kumar, school management members, staff, students, and chief guest Bhakshith Salian, athletics coach at Khelo India Center and Endurance Academy, Mangaluru.

The ceremony began with the lighting of the Sports Day lamp, which symbolised hope, energy, and the true spirit of sportsmanship. This was followed by the official opening of the sports meet, the hoisting of the school flag, and the singing of the school anthem, "We Are Podar." A prayer and a moment of silence were also observed in honour of noted environmentalist Saalumarada Thimmakka, who recently passed away.

In his inaugural speech, principal Girish Kumar spoke about the school's strong sports achievements in the previous year. He stressed that sports play a key role in the all-round growth of students. He said that parents must understand that academics alone do not decide a child's future and that sports help in building discipline and confidence. He encouraged parents to adopt a progressive mindset, saying that the world moves forward quickly and that children must be given opportunities to grow in every field.

Chief guest Bhakshith Salian spoke about the life lessons that sports teach. He said that sports are not only about winning medals but about discipline, courage, teamwork, and daily effort. He thanked teachers and parents for constantly supporting young athletes.

Students performed rhythmic acts using rings, ribbons, and colourful props, followed by an energetic drill and aerobics display. The school houses also presented a disciplined march-past. The ceremony ended with enthusiasm, marking the beginning of Udaan 2025.

Michael D'Souza inaugurates new autism training centre

UDUPI

Manasa Special School, Pamboor, inaugurated its Autism Division Primary Training Centre on Saturday, November 15, marking a major step in supporting specially-abled children. The event was attended by school officials, donors, teachers, parents, and local dignitaries.

Entrepreneur and philanthropist Michael D'Souza, who inaugurated the centre, highlighted the responsibility and significance of caring for specially-abled children. He said, "Caring for special children is both challenging and meaningful. With proper care, encouragement, and consistent support, these children can achieve great heights." He also praised these children as "assets to society" and commended Manasa's 28-year commitment to their education and well-being. Michael and Flavia D'Souza, who funded the centre, were felicitated for their generous support.

The centre was blessed by Dr Gerald Isaac Lobo, Bishop of Udupi Diocese. Several dignitaries were present, including Fr Denis D'Sa, retired Commodore Jerome Castelino, Manasa principal Sr Vinny Gonsalves, joint secretary Mary D'Souza, treasurer Joseph F Noronha, trustees Dr Edward Lobo, Henry Menezes, Kiran Crasta, and advisory committee members Walter Cyril Pinto, Gerald Rodrigues, Gracy Lasrado. Members of the Michael D'Souza Trust Advisory, donors, teachers, parents, and well-wishers also attended.

John Martis, president of the Manasa Trust, welcomed the gathering, while Secretary Dr Gerald Pinto delivered the vote of thanks. The event was compered by Reena D'Souza and Laveena Monis. The inauguration reinforced the school's mission to provide quality education and care, empowering specially-abled children to reach their full potential.

BE student dies after slipping near Kamenahalli waterfall

CHIKKAMAGALURU

A tragic accident claimed the life of a BE student, Varun Desai (19), after he slipped while taking a selfie near Kamenahalli Falls in Chikkamagaluru taluk. The waterfall is located close to Mallenahalli village.

Varun, originally from Belagavi, was a first-year BE student at an engineering college in Chikkamagaluru city. On Friday evening, he visited the falls with five friends riding three bikes. While attempting to capture a selfie near the edge, he lost his footing and fell, resulting in his death.

Police, Fire, and Emergency Services personnel, along with local residents, conducted a search late into the night but could not locate Varun's body. It was recovered on Saturday morning. A case has been registered at the Rural Police Station in connection with the incident.

Authorities and local residents have urged students and visitors from other areas to exercise extreme caution while visiting unfamiliar locations. They advised being especially careful near water bodies, waterfalls, and hilly terrains to avoid accidents.

The incident has raised awareness about the dangers of taking selfies in risky locations, emphasizing the need for safety measures and responsible behaviour while exploring natural sites.

Haryana woman's body discovered near Kodagu border

MADIKERI

A woman's body was discovered inside a car near the Kodagu border, after forest staff at the Lingapura check-post in Virajpet taluk stopped the vehicle late Friday night. Three men traveling in the car were detained by police.

Around 2 a.m., personnel noticed an Alto 800 behaving suspiciously. When the driver attempted to turn the vehicle away, the staff intervened and inspected the car, finding the woman's body inside. The Siddapura Police were alerted and took the three occupants into custody along with the vehicle.

The deceased has been identified as Nankidevi (44), originally from Haryana. She and her husband Rakesh Kumar were living in a rented house in Metagalli, Mysuru, along with two friends. Reports indicate that Nankidevi died by suicide at home by hanging. On returning from work, Rakesh and the two friends, Vikas (32) and Satveer (32), panicked and placed her body in the car, driving toward Kodagu.

43rd Clean Beach – Green Kodi campaign held

KUNDAPURA

The 43rd Clean Beach – Green Kodi campaign, organised by the Bairies Group of Educational Institutions, was successfully held on Saturday, promoting environmental awareness and community participation.

Students of Bairies Seaside Public School, recent winners of the AICS inter-college under-14 football tournament, participated as chief guests. They credited the school's consistent support and guidance for their achievements.

Speaking at the event, Dr. Asif Bairy, Board of Trustees member, encouraged students to discover and develop their hidden talents, assuring them that the institution provides the right platform for growth. Haji Abdul Rahman Bairy, President of the Bairies Group, said the life of environmentalist Saalumarada Thimmakka should inspire all children, and emphasised that the cleanliness campaign will continue regularly.

Dr. Jayashila Shetty, Principal of Haji K. Muhiyuddin Bairy Aided High School, recalled the remarkable life of Thimmakka. A moment of silence was observed as a tribute to her dedication to the environment.

The campaign witnessed active participation from advisory committee members, School Development Committee members, department heads of the Bairies Group, teaching and non-teaching staff, parents, students, and well-wishers.

The programme was conducted by Swathi, a trainee from Bairies B.Ed College, who delivered the welcome address and proposed the vote of thanks. The event highlighted the importance of environmental responsibility and community engagement, inspiring students and participants to contribute towards a cleaner and greener coastal region.

DIGIYATRA SOARS MANGALURU

Mangaluru airport records significant DigiYatra uptick

MANGALURU

Mangaluru International Airport has seen a strong rise in the use of DigiYatra, the Centre's digital travel system that allows passengers to complete airport checks through facial recognition technology. The system, launched at the airport on 14 June 2024, has grown steadily and reached its highest use in October 2025. Airport officials said DigiYatra was used by 30 percent of domestic passengers during the month, showing increasing trust in paperless and contactless travel.

In October, 22,779 of the 75,902 domestic travellers departing from the airport chose DigiYatra for a smoother experience. The airport also marked a new record on 5 October, when 1,118 passengers used the system in a single day, making up 39 percent of all domestic passengers. Officials said the system has reduced crowding at entry points and helped people move faster through security checks.

Monthly adoption numbers show a steady rise, starting from 22 percent in April and climbing to 25.3 percent in September before reaching 30 percent in October. To support the growing demand, the airport has added one DigiYatra lane each at departure gates 1A and 1B. These come in addition to the existing lane at gate 1A.

Airport authorities said DigiYatra fits into the airport's wider digital strategy, which also includes automated parking and the aviio app for smoother coordination. Passengers who wish to use DigiYatra can register through the app on Android or iOS. Once verified, they can pass through entry, security, and boarding without showing physical documents.

Mangaluru International Airport, operated by Mangaluru International Airport Limited, is Karnataka's second busiest airport and handled 2.32 million passengers in FY 2024–25. With more than 55 daily air traffic movements, the airport continues to upgrade its services to match global standards. The latest upgrades highlight the airport's commitment to safer, faster, and smarter travel options.

QUICK READ

Two crocodiles spotted in Chamarajanagar lake

Chamarajanagar

Two crocodiles were recently sighted in the large lake of Dantalli village in Hanur taluk, Chamarajanagar district, causing alarm among local residents. Villagers first noticed one of the crocodiles along the lake's edge on Friday and were reportedly startled. The news quickly spread, raising safety concerns, especially for children who play near the water. Responding to the situation, Gram Panchayat member Shivu visited the site and advised locals to avoid going near the lake. He also cautioned parents to keep children away from the water. Shivu urged the forest department to take immediate action to safely capture the crocodiles and relocate them to a secure location, ensuring public safety.

Bike-tanker collision claims life in Tirthahalli

Shivamogga

A tragic accident occurred near Santha Market in Bejjavalli, Tirthahalli taluk, when a bike collided with a diesel tanker, resulting in the immediate death of the rider. The deceased has been identified as 59-year-old Hanumantappa, who worked as a welfare officer in the Forest Department. Reports indicate that Hanumantappa was crossing the road on his bike on Friday evening when the tanker suddenly approached from the opposite direction and struck him. The impact was fatal, and he died at the scene. Local police from Malur station arrived at the location to investigate the incident. Authorities have urged caution on the roads and are examining the circumstances of the collision to determine responsibility.

Legal awareness programme on November 17

Chitradurga

A legal awareness and assistance programme on the Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, 2007 will be held on November 17 at 11 a.m. at SJM Arts and Commerce College on the Dental College campus in Chitradurga. The event is jointly organised by the District Legal Services Authority, district administration, Zilla Panchayat, Women and Child Development Department, Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities and Senior Citizens, SJM College, the State Government Retired Employees' Association, the Hombelaku Senior Citizens Helpline, and various NGOs working for the elderly.

Dist amid holds S.C.S.P. and T.S.P. progress review meeting

Review meeting assessed the S.C.S.P. and T.S.P. schemes' progress, fund utilization

CHIKKAPALAHALLI

A review meeting was conducted to assess the progress of the S.C.S.P. (Scheduled Caste Sub-Plan) and T.S.P. (Tribal Sub-Plan) schemes under which officials are expected to ensure that beneficiaries receive assistance within the scheduled timeframe and that both physical and financial targets are met. The meeting, chaired by District Officer P.N. Yavinder, was held at the district administrative office and aimed at monitoring the proper utilization of funds and benefits for eligible communities.

Officials were instructed to implement schemes efficiently and transparently, ensuring that allocated resources reach beneficiaries on time. Various schemes under these plans were examined, and progress reports were submitted by department heads for review.

As per the meeting, under the S.C.S.P. plan, ₹3,737.06 crore has been allocated for the district, of which ₹1,964.23 crore has already been released. Similarly, under the T.S.P. plan, ₹543.65 crore has been allocated, with ₹324.78 crore disbursed so far. District officials emphasized that timely fund release and proper monitoring are critical to achieving the intended outcomes.

Additionally, officials discussed agricultural mechanization, noting that 47,748 hectares of farmland in the district will benefit from mechanized harvesting using combined harvesters. Rental charges for harvesters have been set between ₹3,500 and ₹4,000 per hectare, while threshing costs are fixed at ₹2,800 per hectare. These measures are expected to increase efficiency and reduce costs for farmers, providing both economic and operational benefits. The district administration stressed strict adherence to guidelines to ensure maximum benefits reach the target communities.

Muslim businessman funds reconstruction of a Hindu Temple

A Muslim businessman in Channapatna has rebuilt the centuries-old Basaveshwara Temple with a donation of over ₹3 crore, setting a powerful example of communal harmony and interfaith unity in Ramanagara district.

RAMANAGARA

In a powerful testament to communal harmony, Channapatna — widely known for its traditional wooden toys — has once again demonstrated exemplary unity between Hindus and Muslims. A Muslim entrepreneur from the town has funded the complete reconstruction of the historic Basaveshwara Temple at Mangalvarapete, contributing several crores toward the effort. The centuries-old temple, which had long been in a deteriorated condition, has now been rebuilt with remarkable beauty and care. The entire reconstruction was financed by S K Beedi proprietor Syed Sadathulla Sakhaf, who donated Rs 3 crore for the project. Sakhaf not only sponsored the construction but also took part in the temple's inauguration, offering a message of mutual respect and peaceful coexistence.

During the ceremony, Hindu leaders and devotees expressed deep gratitude for Sakhaf's generosity. As a mark of honour, they placed a silver crown on him and showered him with flowers, acknowledging his rare and meaningful contribution.

The land for the temple had earlier been donated by local residents Kempamma and Motegowda, while Sakhaf ensured the construction of the new stone structure, which now stands completed at a cost above Rs 3 crore. The restored temple is being celebrated as a symbol of unity, reinforcing the belief that religious harmony can thrive through collective goodwill.

This act, however, is not Sakhaf's first effort toward fostering interfaith bonding. In Sante Mogenahalli, he previously funded the construction of a Veerabhadreshwara Temple, and even completed a project that included both a Hindu temple and a Muslim dargah within the same premises — an initiative that earned widespread praise. With the revival of the Basaveshwara Temple, he has once again proven his commitment to strengthening communal ties and promoting peaceful coexistence.

Birsa Munda's 150th birth anniversary celebrated in Chitradurga

CHITRADURGA

Birsa Munda, who laid down his life fighting British imperialism, remains a powerful symbol of pride and identity for India's tribal communities, said Sub-Divisional Officer Mehabub Zilani Khureshi. He was presiding over the Janajatiya Gaurav Divas programme held at Valmiki Bhavan on Saturday, organised jointly by the district administration, Zilla Panchayat, and the Department of Tribal Welfare to mark the 150th birth anniversary of Birsa Munda.

Khureshi noted that the British attempted to seize control of India's natural resources, but Birsa Munda rose in rebellion, dedicating his short life to protecting land, forests, and the rights of indigenous people. Though he lived only 25 years, his courage and sacrifice continue to inspire generations, proving that age is no barrier to achieving greatness, he said. Delivering a special lecture, Assistant Director of the Kannada and Culture Department, B.M. Guranath, highlighted how Birsa Munda bravely challenged the oppression of British rulers, missionaries, and landlords. He worked to eradicate superstitions among tribal communities and was revered as a divine figure, with people calling him "Dharti Abba" – Father of the Earth. Birsa Munda's legacy lives on in tribal folklore even today. The Government of India has been observing his birth anniversary as Janajatiya Gaurav Divas since 2019, and his statue has been installed in the Parliament complex. The Jharkhand government has honoured his memory by naming several institutions—including an agricultural university, a technology college, and an airport—after him. Students from tribal residential schools performed traditional dances during the event. District Tribal Welfare Officer H. Divakar, Joint Director of the Food Department Shidram Marihal, Skill Development Department officer Vemanna, and other officials were present.

Children's Day celebrated at Menasagi School

GADAG

Children's Day was celebrated with enthusiasm at Sri Lingabasaveshwara Lower Primary School and Government Primary and High School in Menasagi village, Ron Taluk, marking the birth anniversary of India's first Prime Minister, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru.

The event also included a grand parents' and guardians' meeting.

The program began with Deputy Commissioner Dr. Durgesh K.R. paying tribute to Nehru's portrait. He highlighted the crucial role of schools and homes in shaping children's futures and emphasized the importance of student attendance, quality education, health, nutrition, awareness on child rights, and preventing child labor and abuse. Parents were urged to actively support school activities.

Heavy rain damage: Rs. 250.97 cr relief sanctioned for farmers

KALABURAGI

The district administration has approved financial relief of Rs. 250.97 crore for farmers affected by heavy rainfall and floods during the current 2025-26 monsoon season, according to District Collector B. Fauzia Tarnum. The compensation has been sanctioned under the SDRF/NDRF guidelines for a total of 3.26 lakh farmers across the district.

Extensive rains in August and September caused significant damage to agricultural and horticultural lands, affecting approximately 3.24 lakh hectares. Following detailed assessments, a proposal for relief disbursement was submitted to the state government, which has now been approved.

In the first phase of the relief program, eligible farmers have been identified based on damage data, and compensation will be released directly into the bank accounts linked to their Aadhaar numbers. District Collector Fauzia Tarnum confirmed that the transfer of funds will begin within the next 3–4 days, ensuring swift support to affected cultivators.

The administration emphasized that the SDRF/NDRF framework is being strictly followed to ensure transparency and efficiency in the disbursement process. Farmers are advised to verify their Aadhaar-linked accounts and report any discrepancies to local revenue officials to facilitate smooth fund transfers.

This relief package aims to mitigate the economic loss suffered by farmers due to unseasonal heavy rainfall and flooding, helping them recover and resume agricultural activities.

Authorities also assured continued monitoring of affected areas and coordination with local revenue and agriculture departments to provide additional support wherever necessary.

Sahasra Kalashabhisheka festival from November 25–27

MANDYA

The Sri Ranganath Swamy Temple in Srirangapatna will host the grand Sahasra Kalashabhisheka Mahotsava from November 25 to 27, and officials have been directed to ensure meticulous preparations for the event, said Srirangapatna MLA A.B. Ramesh Bandi Siddegowda.

Speaking at a pre-event meeting held at the temple's Kalyana Mantapa, the MLA emphasized that the festival should be conducted systematically and strictly according to ritual protocols.

He assured that arrangements would be made to provide prasada to devotees throughout the three-day celebration.

Authorities were instructed to station ambulances and medical teams at the venue, print and distribute informational pamphlets, and promote the event via auto announcements. Special decorations including toranams, floral arrangements, and interior-exterior adornments of the temple were also highlighted as necessary.

District Collector Dr. Kumar added that the venue would have well-organized shamianas, chairs, and a dais, along with drinking water facilities and electrical lighting to ensure devotees' comfort. Adequate steps will be taken to maintain cleanliness and hygiene throughout the event.

The police have been directed to ensure smooth crowd management and security, while the Department of Kannada and Culture will oversee arrangements for cultural and musical programs during the festival.

The meeting was attended by Additional District Collector B.C. Shivanandamurthy, Srirangapatna Tahsildar Chetana Yadav, Taluk Panchayat Executive Officer Venu, Municipality Chief Officer Rajanna, and Chief Priest of the temple L. Vijayasarathi, along with other officials.

Gadag police bust fake ID card ring

GADAG

Gadag police have arrested a man involved in selling fake identity documents, causing concern among local residents. The accused, 42-year-old Raghavendra Kabaddi of Rajiv Gandhi Nagar, was caught by the Betageri Layout police.

The arrest follows complaints from the public about fake Aadhaar cards, driving licenses, PAN cards, and voter IDs being made and sold in the area. Superintendent of Police Rohan Jagadish quickly formed a special team to investigate the matter. The team included Deputy SP Murtuza Qadri, Circle Police Inspector Dheeraj Shinde, and PSI Maruti S. Jogadandakar, among others.

Police say they acted on a tip-off and recovered several counterfeit identity cards from Kabaddi. These documents were reportedly used to create fake IDs for people in the city. The authorities have not yet revealed whether anyone else was involved in the network.

CPI Dheeraj Shinde praised the public for alerting the police, while SP Jagadish announced a reward for the officers who helped crack the case. Residents have expressed relief that the police acted quickly but remain cautious about the misuse of fake documents in their neighborhood.

Police officials have urged citizens to verify the authenticity of identity cards and report any suspicious activity. They stressed that such fraud can have serious consequences, including legal action. Authorities said investigations are continuing to ensure no more fake IDs are circulating in Gadag.

GESCOM issues ₹10,000 electricity bill without meter

RAICHUR

A family in Kadagandoddi village, Raichur taluk, was left shocked when GESCOM issued an electricity bill of ₹10,105 in the name of Bhagyamma, despite the fact that she neither owns a house nor has an electricity meter.

The bill includes a current charge of ₹250 and an outstanding amount of ₹9,855, leaving the family stunned and worried.

Bhagyamma and her family protested, showing officials that they have no house or meter in her name apart from the one currently being billed at ₹250 per month. They demanded immediate cancellation of the erroneous bill and warned that they would pursue legal action if the charges were not withdrawn.

The family expressed anger and frustration at the apparent administrative error, stating it caused unnecessary stress and confusion.

GESCOM officials have assured the family that the bill will be revised, and the associated RR number will be deactivated after verification. Bhagyamma had been provided electricity under the Saubhagya scheme in 2013, for which a monthly payment of ₹250 is applicable.

CHILD-FRIENDLY SABHA

Renukapur holds child-friendly special Gram Sabha

CHITRADURGA

As part of the Child-Friendly Gram Panchayat campaign, a special gram sabha for children was organised at the Government Higher Primary School in Renukapur, Chitradurga district. Speaking on the occasion, Jaffar Sharif Sutar, Secretary (Administration) of the Rural Drinking Water and Sanitation Department and the State-level Nodal Officer, urged everyone to work together to develop the Renukapur Government Higher Primary School into a model institution. Addressing parents, teachers and gram panchayat members, he emphasised the need for collective planning and coordinated efforts to achieve this goal. He explained that from November 14, 2025, to January 24, 2026, a ten-week Child-Friendly Gram Panchayat campaign will be held across the state. During this period, every gram panchayat is required to conduct a special gram sabha for children. Renukapur has been selected as a 'Kayaka Gram', making it a priority village for achieving holistic development. The programme was attended by State Consultant Anand from the Rural Drinking Water and Sanitation Department, Renukapur Gram Panchayat President Janajja, Vice President Manjamma, members Deviramma, Palakka, Narasimhappa and Venkatesh, Panchayat Development Officer B.C. Shashiraj, Accounts Assistant Veeranayak, Bill Collector Gujjappa, Computer Operator Chandramma, JJM District Planning Manager Manjunath S. Nadar, District IEC Consultant B.C. Nagaraj, DTSC consultants G.S. Kiran Patil, Chandrakant, Yallappa, Praveen and Geethalakshmi. School Headmaster Manjanna, teachers Jyoti, Ashwini, Neelamma, Kencharaju, Shwetha and Tippeswamy, along with PSI Chetan Kumar and ASI Manjanna from Talaku Police Station, were also present.

Review of Jal Jeevan Mission Progress

Later, at the Challakere Taluk Panchayat hall, Jaffar Sharif Sutar chaired a meeting to review the progress of the Jal Jeevan Mission and KSRDWSP schemes. Executive Engineer Amarnath Jain, assistant and junior engineers, support engineers, office staff, DPM and DTSC consultants, and IEC consultants from SBM (Rural) participated in the review.

QUICK READ

Woman's body found in car at Lingapur checkpost

MADIKERI

Forest personnel conducting routine checks at Lingapur Checkpost in Maldare Gram Panchayat, Kodagu district, discovered the body of a woman in a car on Friday night. The deceased has been identified as Nankidevi (47), originally from Haryana and residing in Mysuru with her husband. Forest officials immediately alerted the police, and Siddapur police arrived at the spot. Three individuals traveling in the car were taken into custody for questioning. The case is currently under investigation to determine the circumstances leading to the woman's death. Authorities have confirmed that the discovery was made during a routine inspection, emphasizing the vigilance of forest and law enforcement personnel in maintaining safety and addressing suspicious activity along the route.

X appeals HC ruling upholding Centre's Sahyog portal powers

X Corp has approached the Karnataka High Court, challenging the government's Sahyog portal powers over online content removal

BENGALURU

X Corp has filed an appeal before the Karnataka High Court challenging the single-judge ruling that upheld the Union Government's authority to issue content blocking directions through the Sahyog portal. The appeal, submitted on November 14, seeks to overturn the September 24 judgment, which dismissed X Corp's petition questioning the scope of Section 79(3)(b) of the Information Technology Act, 2000.

In its original petition, X Corp argued that Central Government officers do not possess independent statutory powers to issue blocking orders under Section 79(3)(b), asserting that such directions must follow the procedural framework under Section 69A of the IT Act and the Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code Rules, 2021. The single-judge ruling, however, held that the Sahyog portal operates lawfully and is consistent with the IT Act, emphasizing the necessity of regulatory oversight in the digital domain.

The court had compared social media to a modern public arena, observing that unregulated platforms cannot be allowed to function in anarchic freedom. It stated that reasonable restrictions on online speech are essential to protect public order and individual dignity, particularly in cases involving offences against women. The judgment also noted that X Corp, being a foreign entity, cannot invoke Article 19(1)(a) of the Constitution, which guarantees freedom of speech only to Indian citizens.

The court described the Sahyog portal as a cooperative tool designed under Section 79(3)(b) and Rule 3(b) of the 2021 Rules to combat cybercrime and facilitate lawful takedowns. It highlighted inconsistencies in X Corp's regulatory approach, noting compliance with similar directives in the U.S. but opposition to Indian regulations. Following the September ruling, X Corp had expressed disagreement and vowed to pursue appellate remedies, arguing that the decision contradicted the Bombay High Court judgment on the Central Government's Fact Check Unit and disputing the limitation of Article 19 protections to citizens. The appeal will now be heard by a division bench, which is expected to revisit critical questions regarding intermediary liability, the legal status of the Sahyog portal, Sections 69A and 79 of the IT Act, and the constitutional rights of foreign entities in India's digital regulatory framework.

Salumarada Timmakka's legacy inspires all: K. Sheshadri

Salumarada Timmakka's lifelong environmental efforts inspire society, with citizens urged to plant trees, maintain parks, and honor her legacy through action.

RAMANAGARA

Salumarada Timmakka, despite having little formal education, planted and nurtured thousands of saplings, turning them into full-grown trees, setting a remarkable example of environmental stewardship for society, said City Council President K. Sheshadri (Shashi). On Saturday, the Mahatma Gandhi Conservation Committee organized a garden event near the city court to celebrate Kannada Rajyotsava, during which the Kannada flag was hoisted. Sheshadri paid floral tributes to the late Timmakka's portrait, highlighting her lifelong dedication to the environment. He emphasized that today, while environmental discussions are widespread, many are mere words without action. Timmakka's selfless service, carried out without expectation, demonstrates that true values remain alive in society. Timmakka raised awareness about environmental conservation and the importance of living in harmony with nature. Sheshadri urged citizens to draw inspiration from her ideals, maintain cleanliness in parks used for recreation, and contribute to a cleaner, healthier environment. He noted that global warming poses increasing threats, and no science can replace the protective role of nature. Preserving ecological balance and planting trees is essential to ensure clean air and sunlight for all. Environmental care must start from one's own home to effectively combat pollution. Laxman, owner of Ganesh Jewellers, also lauded Timmakka's environmental dedication. He mentioned that visitors often flock to Mahatma Gandhi Park for recreation, and sudden rains leave insufficient shelter for cars and people.

State-level muslim coalition to pursue demands

UDUPI

Leaders of Muslim organizations across Karnataka gathered in Udupi on Saturday to form a state-level coalition aimed at systematically pursuing the Congress party's election promises to the Muslim community. The meeting, organized by the Udupi District Muslim Federation at the Udupi Mission Compound, emphasized coordinated efforts to ensure the community's socio-economic and political interests are addressed. Retired senior IAS officer L.K. Atik spoke at the meeting about the political, legal, and administrative challenges that the Muslim community faces in having its demands recognized and implemented by the state government. He also offered guidance on initiatives the community could undertake independently for its development, and how collaboration with other communities could strengthen advocacy efforts. Former Udupi District Muslim Federation president Yaseen Malpe set the context for discussion by highlighting the promises made by the Congress party to the Muslim community, evaluating how much has been fulfilled, and assessing the government's approach toward the community.

Japan's Nidec launches ₹600 crore Orchard Hub in Belur, Dharwad

BENGALURU

Union Minister M.B. Patil inaugurated the newly established Orchard Hub by Japan-based Nidec Company in the Belur Industrial Area of Dharwad. The project, built at an investment of approximately ₹600 crore, marks a significant milestone in industrial development in northern Karnataka.

Speaking at the inauguration, Minister Patil recalled that he had performed the ground-breaking ceremony for the facility five months ago. He noted that the state government had promptly fulfilled all the requests and incentives sought by the company, enabling Nidec to invest substantial capital and establish this state-of-the-art industrial center in record time. Patil described the Orchard Hub as a modern, technology-driven enterprise that combines innovation with research, aiming to create a robust industrial ecosystem in the region. This investment is expected to generate significant employment opportunities for the local population, both directly and indirectly, thereby benefiting the region economically. The minister emphasized that the Karnataka government, through its new industrial policy, has implemented several structural measures to encourage companies to set up industries outside Bengaluru, promoting balanced regional industrial growth. Patil also highlighted Karnataka's growing appeal to Japanese companies, citing that dozens of Japanese firms are already present in the state, including the Japanese Industrial Township. He recalled his recent visits to Japan, which secured commitments of ₹4,500 crore in investments, in addition to earlier investments of ₹600 crore from Japan and South Korea.

Dr. Vasanth conferred Upadhyaya couple award

UDUPI

Renowned Ashtavadhani, Gamaka lecturer, Yakshagana commentator, and writer Kabbinale Vasanth Bharadwaj has been selected for the 2024 Dr. U.P. Upadhyaya and Dr. Sushila P. Upadhyaya Award, presented through the Rashtrakavi Govinda Pai Research Centre in Udupi. The award honors the contributions of multilingual scholars in fields such as Tulu lexicography, research, and literature, in memory of Dr. U.P. Upadhyaya and Dr. Sushila P. Upadhyaya. It carries a cash prize of ₹10,000 along with a citation. Vasanth Bharadwaj, who retired as Head of Kannada at State Bank of Mysore and served as a lecturer at Staff Training Colleges, is celebrated for his expertise in language, grammar, and prosody. He gained widespread recognition as a Gamaka lecturer, poet, Yakshagana commentator, and orator, contributing to poetry.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to public at large **Mrs.Nahidakhtar Naikwadi C/O Saifan,** Residing at #386 1st Floor Krishna Apartment, 5th Cross BTS Road, Wilson Garden, Bangalore South, Bengaluru, Karnataka - 560030 she has lost the Registered Original Rectification Deed of Doc No.JAN-1-01167/2006-07 dated on 14-06-2006 She has lost at Near Wilson Garden bus stop, Accordingly she has lodged the complainant on Bangalore South Police with E-Lost dated 15/11/2025 Report No.1904467/2025

SCHEDULE PROPERTY : All that piece and parcel of Property Residential Apartment Bearing Flat No.201 in the First Floor of the Krishna Apartment,(Krishna Residency) (BBMP assigned Municipal No. 23/4, BBMP assigned PID No. 62-109-23/4) With a Super built up area of 1003.59 Sq ft together with 500 Sq ft of Undivided share, title, right and interest in the land described in the Schedule "A" Property, along with One Covered Car parking Space Provided in the basement Floor, constructed in property bearing old No.386, Corporation No.384/23, Situated at, 5th Cross, Wilson Garden, Bangalore, bounded on by:**East by:** Property bearing Site No.385, **West by:** 5th Cross Road, **North by:** 7th Main Road, **South by:** Property bearing Site No. 387.If anyone finding the aforesaid document is hereby requested to handover the same to our office at the address mentioned hereunder.

HARISHA S, Advocate
No.2,1st Floor Byranna Building, Madanayakanahalli, Bengaluru-562162
Mobile No.90609 50265.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to public at large **Mr. Krishnamurthy S/O Papaiah,** Residing at #184, 3rd Cross, Veeranna Palya, Govindapura, Bangalore North, Karnataka - 560045 He has lost the Original Hakku Patra dated on 30-05-1973 he has lost at Near Abodh apartment Govindapura Accordingly he has lodged the complainant on Bangalore City Police with E-Lost dated 15/11/2025 Report No.1904490/2025.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY : All that piece and parcel of the Western Portion of the Residential Property Bearing Site No.5, House List No.31, Survey No. 33/1 and 33/2, BBMP Katha No. 106/112/65 Situated at Nagawara Village, Kadaba Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, Bangalore, Measuring East to West : 18 Feet and North to South 48 Feet Totally measuring 864 Sq. Ft bounded on **East by:** Mrs. Zareena Khatoon's Property, **West by:** Site No. 4, Late.Krishnappa @ Hari property, **North by:** Private Property, **South by:** Road, If anyone finding the aforesaid document is hereby requested to handover the same to our office at the address mentioned hereunder.

HARISHA S, Advocate
No.2,1st Floor Byranna Building, Madanayakanahalli, Bengaluru-562162
Mobile No.90609 50265.

POLICE DEPARTMENT
Office of the Superintendent of Police, Bengaluru District
No.5, Millers Road, Bengaluru-560052

No: 82/STS/2025-26 **Dated : 13.11.2025**

E-PROCUREMENT NOTICE

E-tender are invited in "Two Cover System" as per the Karnataka Transperency in Public Procurement Act, 1999 and Rules, 2000 sub rule 17(2) through E-Procurement portal of Government of Karnataka (www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in) for Purchase of Cat eyes / Solar studs to the Superintendent of Police, Bengaluru District.

Sl. No	Indent No.	Particulars	Qty.	Last date for submission of Tender
1	KSP/2025-26/IND0403	Cat eyes / Solar studs	1666	18-11-2025

In order to participate in E-Procurement Platform all the intended tenderers have to register in the E-Procurement portal. A training Programmer in E-Procurement is organized by E-Procurement cell. The Tenderers who participate can take assistance with E-Procurement help Desk at 080-25501227, 25501216 in order to participate in the e-procurement tender. It is mandatory for tenderers to register in E-Procurement Platform. (Technical Bid Open Date: 28-11-2025)

Please visit (www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in) for more information or call helpline 080-25501227, 25501216

Sd/-
Superintendent of Police, Bengaluru District.

DIPR/CP/3835/NR/2025-26

IN THE COURT OF THE ADDITIONAL CIVIL JUDGE AND JMFC AT DEVANAHALLI
CRL.Misc. No. 551/2025
Between: Smt. Venkatamma and others ...Petitioners
And: The Tahsildar, Devanahalli Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District Respondent
PUBLIC NOTICE

I the undersigned advocate on behalf of my clients namely Smt. Venkatamma W/o Late.Muniyappa, aged about 82 years, R/ at:- Mallepura village, Channarayapatna Hobli, Devanahalli Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District and others have filed the above petition for the death certificate of Late. Muniyappa S/o Late. Muniramaiah who died on 30.04.1968 at Mallepura village, Channarayapatna Hobli, Devanahalli Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District. If any parties who have objections may dispute regarding the same can appear before the Hon'ble Additional Civil Judge and JMFC at Devanahalli and the date of hearing on 23.12.2025 at 11.00 A.M. in C.Mis No. 551/2025.

By the order of this Hon'ble court
Chief Ministerial Officer
Civil Judge & JMFC Court, Devanahalli
Address for service: **Sri.M.M.Srinivas,** Advocate, Office at:- 1st floor, Narayanachar complex, Sulibele Road, Devanahalli Town, Bengaluru Rural District

CH CLASSIFIEDS
To place a classified ad contact: **080-41209042**

CAUVERY NEERAVARI NIGAMA NIYAMITHA
(A Government of Karnataka Enterprises)
Office of the Executive Engineer, VC Division, Mandya-571401. Mandya Dist Ph: 08232-225046

SHORT TENDER NOTIFICATION NO-11/2025-26
Dated : 06.11.2025
Two cover System
Through e-procurement

This office's tender Notification No.11/2025-26, Dated: 06.11.2025 for a total No of 03 works (Minimum amount-495.00 lakhs Maximum amount Rs. 499.00 lakhs). Item wise rate tender Is Invited from eligible KPWD Class-II & Above contractors. Tender queries and clarification as per e-portal. E.M.D should be paid through E-payment. Last date of submission of tenders through online : As per e-Portal, Date of opening of tender As per e-portal. For additional Information log on to http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in and contact on official Land-line number 08232-225046 During office hours

Sd/-Executive Engineer, Cauvery Neeravari Nigama Ltd VC Division, Mandya.

ವಾಸಾಸಂಜ/ಸನ–ಮಂ/ಕೆವಿಎನ್ಎಂಸಿ&ವಿ/572/2025–26

Town Municipal Council Athani
Near Dr.B R Ambedkar circle, Athani-591304
Dist: Belagavi. Landline: 08289-251137
Website:www.athanitown.mrc.gov.in

No-TMCA/PWD/TENDER:2025-26 **Date : 13-11-2025**

: TENDER NOTIFICATION :
(Through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal)

Tenders are invited for the works of Development of Parks under the Amrut 2.0 Scheme of TMC Athani for the year 2025-26 as per KW-3 with the Indent No 1)51567 & 2)51570 The Last date for Uploading tenders is 01-12-2025 till 05:00PM and for more information, Please Visit the Website:kppp.karnataka.gov.in.

Sd/-Chief Officer TMC Athani DIPR/BGM/RO-NO-1324/KSMCA/2025-26 **Sd/-President TMC Athani**

NOTICE FOR STORAGE AND SALE OF FERTILIZER FOR USE IN AGRICULTURE

We Newchem Sunraysia Pvt Ltd having our Sale and Storage premises office at Godown No.2, VPC No. 1065, Village-Naganur, Tal- Nipani, Dist- Belgaum, Karnataka State, intend to sell the below mentioned fertilizers in the State of Karnataka. The below mentioned 100% Water Soluble Mixture Fertilizers for agriculture use are available as per provisions of Gazette Notification No. S.O.2900 (E) dated 24th October 2015 of GOI. Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers' Welfare Dept. New Delhi. The below mentioned products are manufactured by us in Maharashtra, are strictly adhering to the Quality as per FCO,

Product Name: 100% Water Soluble Mixture of Fertilizers	
Mono Potassium Phosphate (00:52:34)	NPK 00:34:25+TE
Mono Ammonium Phosphate (12:61:00)	NPK (8:20:14) S
Potassium Nitrate (13:00:45)	NPK 14:11:33 TE
CALCIUM NITRATE (15.5% N)	NPK 27:10:16 TE
Potassium Sulphate (K 50%) NPK 00:00:50	NPK 25:12:12
NPK 19:19:19	NPK 00:05:25 Ca2 S8 B 0.5 Mo 0.5
NPK 20:20:20	NPK 10:24:30
NPK 15:30:05 + Zn 1%	NPK 10:43:10
NPK 10:40:00 + Zn 1%	NPK 05:30:00 Ca2 Zn 1.5 B 0.75
NPK 8:8:30+ Zn1%	NPK 05:25:05 S2 Fel
NPK 00:42:32	NPK 00:20:10 Ca2 Mn 1 Mo 0.5
NPK 00:50:10	NPK 00:25:20 S2 Mo 0.5 B 0.5
NPK 00:12:45	NPK 00:10:20 S6 Ca2 Mo 0.75
NPK 00:12:18 + Zn 1%	NPK 00:18:12
NPK 05:20:15	NPK 00:15:15 Ca5
NPK 05:55:17	NPK 00:10:20 S5
NPK 05:35:40	NPK 10:15:10 S3%
NPK 00:40:40	NPK 12:12:17 S2%, MgO 3%
NPK 13:40:13	NPK 12:15:20 S6%
NPK 06:10:32 Mg 2%	NPK 00:15:15 Ca2 Mg2 S2
NPK 18:46:00 Fortified with Boron 0.5% NPK 18:18:18 NPK 04:20:15	NPK 19:47:00 NPK 00:05:25+Sulphur 18%

For product information, please contact our Storage & Sales Office in Karnataka, Mobile Number 8149677748 / 7350001705.

यूनियन बैंक ऑफ इंडिया भारत सरकार का उपक्रम **Union Bank of India** A Government of India Undertaking

BANASHANKARI 3RD STAGE BRANCH
No 569 Shanthi Arcade, 2nd Main, Hosakerehalli Main Road 2nd Phase, 6th Block, BSK 3rd Stage, Bangalore-560085
Mail ID: ubin0815829@unionbankofindia.bank, Mobile: 9321415821

NOTICE FOR SALE OF VEHICLE BY PUBLIC AUCTION

Notice to public is hereby given to the effect that the Vehicle described herein will be sold by **Union Bank, Asset Recovery Branch Bangalore North** by holding Pubic Auction on the date and time mentioned in this notice in **"AS IS WHERE IS CONDITION".**

Borrower	Loan No's	Vehicle No & Vehicle Model	Year of Make	Reserve Price	EMD Amount	Account details for payment of Bid Amounts
Sathish Handa S/o Nagu Handa R/o No 18/1 Venkateswara Building ward No 8 near Maheshwari College Chikkaballapura-568101	158216520000050	TATA PUNCH ADV 1 2P MT BS6PH2 KA40N5118	19.04.2023	Rs. 4,03,000/- (Rupees Four Lakh Three thousand only)	Rs. 40,300/- (Rupees Fourty Thousand Three Hundred only)	Union Bank of India Account Number: 15821980050000, Name: Inward RTGS Branch: Banashankari 3rd Stage - Bangalore IFSC Code: UBIN0815829

Date & Time of Auction: 14.03.2025, 3.00 PM to 4.00 PM

Inspection of Vehicle: The interested Bidder can contact the Branch of Banashankari 3rd Stage Bangalore

TERMS & CONDITIONS: a) Public Auction is being held on **"AS IS WHERE IS CONDITION"** basis and the Bank is not responsible for documents, Condition or any other factors affecting the Vehicle. **b)** Venue of the Public Auction: **Banashankari 3rd Stage Branch** No 569 Shanthi Arcade, 2nd Main, Hosakerehalli Main Road,2nd Phase, 6th Block, BSK 3rd Stage, Bangalore-560085. Mail ID: ubin0815829@unionbankofindia.bank. Date & Time **14.03.2025, 3.00 pm to 4.00 pm. c)** The intending purchaser/bidder is required to submit the Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) amount via NEFT/RTGS to the branch account, as mentioned in the auction notice, On or before the commencement of Public auction. **d)** for detailed procedure and terms and Conditions of Public Auction, interested bidder may visit the branch Successfull bidder shall ensure that the vehicles are insured before plying /taking out of the yard. **e)** Parking charges should be paid by successful bidder.

Date : 15.11.2025
Place: Bengaluru

Sd/- Authorised Officer, Union Bank of India

BANGALORE CENTRAL CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Executive Engineer, Chickpet Division, No. 194, T. Mariyappa Road, Opp. to Lalbhag South Gate, Siddapura Circle, Bangalore - 560 011.

No.:EE/CKP/E-PROC/03/2025-26 **Date:13.11.2025**

INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDERS
(Through KPP Portal Only)

The Executive Engineer, Chickpet Division, BCCC invites tenders from eligible Contractors registered in Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike or equivalent registration with CPWD / KPWD / Railways / MES / National Highways or any State Government Organisations for works detailed in the table below.

Sl.No.	Name of the work
1.	Providing Asphalting to 4th Cross, 6th Cross and 9th Cross in Ward No. 164, Hombegowdanagara (3rd Call). Estimated Cost : **50.00 Lakhs.** EMD : **Rs. 1,00,000/-**

1) Tender documents can be downloaded from KPP portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** **2)** Pre bid meeting: **19.11.2025 at 3.00 p.m. 3)** Last Date for receipt of tenders: **24.11.2025 upto 4.00 p.m. 4)** Opening of technical bids: **25.11.2025 at 4.30 p.m.** Further details can be obtained from the office of the undersigned.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Chickpet Division, BCCC.

QUICK READ

IMD forecast heavy rain in parts of Tamil Nadu

Chennai

Heavy rain is expected in parts of Tamil Nadu over the next two days, with the India Meteorological Department (IMD) issuing alerts for multiple coastal and interior districts. The weather office has said that showers, which began in several regions on Saturday, are likely to intensify, particularly in the delta and northern coastal belts. In the early morning bulletin, the IMD reported that Ramanathapuram district recorded significant rainfall. Mandapam received 7 cm of rain, marking the highest in the state. Areas including Rameswaram in Ramanathapuram district, Pamban, and Azhagarai Estate in the Nilgiris each saw around 5 cm of rainfall.

'File criminal cases against those involved in Pune land scam'

Nagpur

Congress Legislature Party leader Vijay Wadettiwar has appealed to Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis that a criminal case should be filed against all officials and beneficiaries involved in embezzling crores of rupees in the Pune land scam. In a letter, he claimed that illegal transactions of government land worth crores of rupees in Pune Mundhwa were carried out with the connivance of selected private individuals and government officials, and this was a well-planned conspiracy to usurp government-owned land. His letter comes amid a raging controversy involving the Deputy Chief Minister and NCP chief Ajit Pawar's son Parth Pawar.

Massive fire breaks out in Kolkata's warehouse

Kolkata

A massive fire broke out on Ezra Street near Lalbazar in Kolkata on Saturday and was still raging. At least 20 fire engines have been pressed into service to douse the flames. Efforts are being made to bring the fire under control. The extent of damage is likely to be high as the area is congested. The number of fire engines may increase further depending on the situation. Fire-fighting officers are working on a war footing to bring the situation under control. So far, they have not been able to locate the source of the fire.

After Bihar rout, Cong unlikely to exit DMK alliance in TN

Instead of trying new coalition equations, the Bihar loss has pushed the Cong to hold firmly to existing, stable alliances with DMK-led front being a prime example

CHENNAI

The Congress party's crushing defeat in the Bihar Assembly elections has significantly reduced the chances of the party reconsidering its alliance strategy in Tamil Nadu, senior political observers and party insiders reveal.

Instead of triggering experiments or new coalition equations, the Bihar loss has pushed the Congress leadership to hold firmly to existing, stable alliances with Tamil Nadu's DMK-led front being a prime example.

Congress leaders had initially expected a revival in

Bihar, but the severe electoral blow has forced a reset in the party's national strategy. With internal morale shaken, the high command is now inclined to minimize risks in states where the party's alliance structures are already functioning.

In Tamil Nadu, the DMK-Congress partnership has delivered consecutive victories since 2019, both in Lok Sabha and Assembly polls, cementing its utility. This development comes as a major setback to Tamilaga Vetri Kazhagam (TVK), the rising political outfit founded by actor-politician Vijay. TVK had been actively hoping to lure Congress into a new alliance, banking on dissatisfaction within sections of the state Congress unit particularly those upset with the current TNCC leadership.

Some Congress MLAs, MPs, and district-level leaders were reportedly open to a dialogue, viewing TVK as a platform that could potentially offer more seats and ministerial roles in a future government. Their hopes gained momentum after Vijay publicly appealed for a stable coalition alternative ahead of the 2026 elections.

TVK was further emboldened by internal surveys claiming nearly 26 percent support across Tamil Nadu a figure that, if accurate, could make it a formidable force in a three-cornered contest against the DMK and AIADMK.

3L rise in Bihar voter count after Cong flags discrepancy: ECI

NEW DELHI

The Election Commission of India (ECI) on Saturday issued a detailed clarification on the process of updating electoral rolls, responding to concerns raised by the Congress regarding a nearly three-lakh difference in Bihar's voter count.

The Congress had highlighted that Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar, in a press note dated 6 October, put the total number of voters in Bihar at 7.42 crore, while the Commission's press release issued after polling reported the figure as 7.45 crore.

Accusing the ECI of lacking transparency, the Congress questioned the sudden rise in the number of voters.

In its response, the ECI explained that the 7.42-crore figure was based on the final electoral roll published on 30 September, prepared after the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of rolls conducted prior to the announcement of the election schedule. This 30 September roll is traditionally regarded as the baseline voter data before any election.

The Commission clarified that, under election rules, eligible citizens may apply for enrolment up to ten days before the last date for filing nominations for each phase of an election. This provision remains available even after the election is formally announced, allowing additions to the voter list.

According to ECI officials, numerous valid applications were received between 1 October and the nomination deadlines for both phases. Following scrutiny, all eligible applicants were added to the rolls to ensure no qualified voter was excluded.

These additions resulted in an increase of approximately three lakh voters, bringing the total to 7.45 crore. The updated figure was correctly reflected in the post-poll press release, officials emphasised.

Bangladeshi national living illegally in Bengal arrested

KOLKATA

A Bangladeshi national living illegally in West Bengal was arrested while allegedly attempting to return to his country, fearing the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of the state's voters' list, police said on Saturday.

The arrested person has been identified as Durjoy Roy. The 28-year-old youth was arrested from Haldibari in the Cooch Behar district of North Bengal. According to the police, the youth also confessed to having come to India illegally four years ago.

During his stay in India, he allegedly procured an Aadhaar card and a PAN card using forged documents. According to officials, local residents found him roaming around the Sinjarhat area since and became suspicious.

After receiving the information, the police of Dewanganj Out Post reached the spot. When Durjoy was questioned, he admitted that he is

from Bangladesh. After that, the police arrested him and took him to Dewanganj Out Post. Police said the youth is a native of Mardia village of Sirajganj district in Bangladesh. He had entered India illegally about four years ago. He was working in hotels and tea gardens as a worker.

As soon as the SIR exercise of Bengal's voters' list began earlier this month, the pressure increased on him to flee the country. He decided to go back to Bangladesh through a broker, crossing the India-Bangladesh border at night. That's how he reached the Haldibari area.

However, on his way to Bangladesh, he was arrested by the police. A mobile phone, Aadhaar card, PAN card, a bank ATM card and some money were recovered from him. After the police arrested him, the Bangladeshi youth told local reporters, I came here for a visit about four years ago. I used to work in tea gardens and hotels here. However, he denied coming to the country illegally.

AQI at 400: Delhi turns into gas chamber

NEW DELHI

The Air Quality Index (AQI) in Delhi-NCR remained in the 'severe' category on Saturday as the residents woke up to another day of choking smog.

The Air Quality Early Warning System (EWS) recorded the city's AQI at 386, while private air quality monitor AQI.in pegged it at 470. This corresponds to the effect of smoking 12 cigarettes daily on your lungs. A thick veil of haze covered the skyline, making it difficult to see buildings and major roads in the morning.

According to the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) readings, several areas in the city witnessed 'very poor' or 'severe' pollution levels -- Ashok Vihar reported an AQI of 415, CRRI Mathura Road 365, Burari Crossing 383, Chandni Chowk 419, Bawana 441, Jahangirpuri

422, Dwarka Sector-8 393, JLN Stadium 389, ITO 418, Mundka 426, Najafgarh 385, Patparganj 399, Rohini 423, Punjabi Bagh 405, Narela 418, Wazirpur 447, RK Puram 406, Siri Fort 495, Vivek Vihar 418 and Sonia Vihar 410.

According to the Early Warning System for Delhi, the AQI recorded at 5:30 AM was 386. The variation in AQI readings is a result of the different parameters being monitored and the locations of the air quality monitoring stations. Due to persistently high pollution levels, the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) has maintained Stage III of the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) throughout Delhi-NCR.

The measures implemented under this stage comprise limitations on construction projects, brick kilns, stone crushers, and other operations that emit high levels of pollution.

Meanwhile, the Supreme Court has instructed the governments of Punjab and Haryana to submit a status report regarding the actions implemented to reduce stubble burning, which is a significant factor in the air pollution problem in the Delhi-NCR area.

Bengal misses SIR deadline again, 22L enumeration forms undistributed

KOLKATA

The first phase of West Bengal's special intensive revision (SIR) of the electoral roll has missed its deadline for the second time, with 22 lakh enumeration forms yet to be distributed.

According to data from the Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) of West Bengal, approximately 7.45 crore forms had been distributed by 6 p.m., covering around 97 percent of the state's 7,66,37,529 registered voters as of October 27.

The distribution of enumeration forms marks the first of three key stages in the SIR, which began on November 4 and is being conducted after a gap of more than two decades — the last such exercise took place in 2002. The initial distribution deadline was November 11, but around 15 percent of voters still remained uncovered at that point, prompting the extension to November 14. Despite the extra time, the process remains incomplete.

Officials say that at least 60 lakh voters have been categorised as non-traceable, as booth-level officers (BLOs) were unable to deliver forms to them directly. In these cases, BLOs pasted notices on the main doors of residences, instructing voters to reach out and collect their forms by a specified date. Those who failed to respond have been marked as non-traceable — a designation that could affect their retention in the voter list if not corrected.

The election authorities now face a race against time, as the entire SIR process must be finished by March next year. The ongoing revision is especially significant because voters whose names or parents' names were not present in the 2002 voter list must now provide one of 11 approved documents to maintain their status on the electoral roll.The delays have raised concerns about the efficiency of the revision process, particularly ahead of the 2024 Lok Sabha election preparations.

BJP leaders, workers celebrating NDA's Bihar win attacked in Bengal

KOLKATA

BJP leaders and workers in two districts of West Bengal were either allegedly attacked by the Trinamool Congress workers or arrested by the police while they were celebrating the thumping victory of the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) in the Bihar polls. The Leader of the Opposition in the West Bengal Assembly, Suvendu Adhikari, had issued a social media statement on Saturday morning claiming that the BJP's organisation district secretary of Cooch Behar, Ajay Roy, was harassed, dragged, and arrested by the cops at Dinhata in Cooch Behar district, reportedly for publicly celebrating the victory of NDA in the Bihar Assembly polls.

The leaders of the opposition accused the West Bengal minister in charge of the North Bengal Development Department, Udayan Guha, of masterminding the harassment of Roy and his subsequent arrest.

According to Adhikari, Guha, who was referred to as a criminal by the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) in the 2021 post-election violence case before the Calcutta High Court, had di-

rected the state police to arrest Roy. The Trinamool Congress party habitually misuses the police in this manner everywhere to vent their frustration against BJP leaders, Adhikari added. Despite repeated attempts, Guha was unavailable for comments. In another incident, around 12 BJP workers were attacked and injured by a group of around 50 people at Diamond Harbour in the South 24 Parganas district of West Bengal while they were celebrating the NDA's victory in Bihar.

The BJP district leadership alleged that the attackers were close associates of the ruling Trinamool Congress. In that attack, the BJP workers celebrating NDA's victory in Bihar were reportedly injured and are currently undergoing treatment at a local hospital. In both cases, there was no response from the Trinamool Congress or the district police administration so far.

'Voters went with NDA out of fear that RJD will bring back Jungle Raj'

PATNA

Former poll strategist Prashant Kishor's Jan Suraaj Party, which failed to open its account in the Bihar assembly, on Saturday claimed that a section of its voters ended up siding with the BJP-led NDA "out of fear of return of jungle raj under the RJD".

Addressing a press conference here a day after the poll results were announced, its national president Uday Singh also claimed "polarisation" took place in the Seemanchal region in the aftermath of the blast near Red Fort in Delhi, a day before the November 11 polling was held in the area.

"I can say there was fear of the return of jungle raj under the RJD. Although I am not saying that there has been any jungle raj, the fear was there. Many people, who would have given us a chance, ended up voting for the NDA out of that fear," said Singh, the former BJP MP.

He added, "Let me make a distinction here. I am saying people had a problem with RJD, not with the Congress or other constituents of the opposition Mahagathbandhan".

Singh, a former MP from Purnea, also said another factor came into play after the Delhi blast that claimed the lives of at least 13 people.

"I was in the Seemanchal region and the incident did lead to polarisation of votes," he said

TRIBAL PRIDE DAY

Tribals of Gujarat gears up to welcome PM Modi

AHMEDABAD

Tribal communities in Gujarat's Narmada district are gearing up for a historic celebration as Prime Minister Narendra Modi arrives on Saturday to preside over the national observance of the 150th birth anniversary of tribal icon and freedom fighter Birsa Munda.

The event, held at Dediapada, forms part of the nationwide Tribal Pride Day celebrations officially designated by the Prime Minister to honor the legacy, culture, and rights of India's indigenous communities.

The day bears both emotional and political significance. The Prime Minister will begin his visit by offering prayers at the revered Yaha Mogi Devmogra Dham in Devmogra village, 30 km from Dediapada, symbolically reinforcing his connection with tribal faith and traditions.

Thousands of tribal residents are expected at the public gathering, where PM Modi will highlight the government's ongoing initiatives aimed at tribal welfare, including livelihood improvement, cultural preservation, and forest rights.

A woman expressing hope for the accelerated development said, "Today marks the 150th birth anniversary of Birsa Munda. We are here to see PM Modi in person. His visit gives us hope that our region, too, will witness the same progress the rest of the state has experienced."

The celebration will feature vibrant cultural performances, including Dangi Nritya and traditional tribal dances prepared exclusively for the occasion. Performers described their excitement, saying they were ready to welcome the Prime Minister with full fervour.

The visit also intersects with ongoing welfare efforts such as the Van Bandhu Kalyan Yojana, launched by Modi in 2003, through which tribal families have secured legal rights to forest land. Locals credit sustained development under Modi's leadership for improved living conditions and view the visit as a catalyst for further growth.

QUICK READ

Car accident kills 3, injures 8 in Rajasthan

Jaipur

A tragic road accident on the Kharia Mithapur bypass near Bilara claimed three young lives and left eight others injured on Saturday, according to local police. The incident occurred when a speeding car struck an animal on the road, causing the vehicle to overturn violently. The impact proved fatal for three youngsters traveling in the car, while eight passengers sustained injuries of varying severity. Police arrived at the scene shortly after the accident and rushed the injured to nearby medical facilities for treatment.

NHAI plans elevated corridor, underpass on at Arcot

Chennai

Tamil Nadu's Arcot town is poised for smoother and safer travel as the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) prepares to open a new elevated corridor and an underpass on the Chennai–Bengaluru Highway (NH-48) soon. The project, built at a cost of Rs 22 crore, is expected to address long-standing congestion and accident risks at one of the busiest junctions in the state's Ranipet district. NHAI officials said the elevated corridor and the underpass near the crucial tri-junction will substantially ease movement on the high-traffic stretch, which has been classified as a black spot based on accident data shared periodically by the district police.

Chennai pet owners scramble for microchips, seek more time

Chennai

With the November 23 deadline for microchipping pet dogs fast approaching, the Greater Chennai Corporation's (GCC) ambitious registration drive has run into severe congestion, technical hurdles, and mounting frustration among thousands of pet owners struggling to complete the mandatory process. The civic body has procured two lakh microchip devices and 80 RFID readers at a total cost of ₹5.19 crore. Each chip costs around ₹300, but GCC is offering the microchipping service free of charge at its designated centres.

AFFORDABLE HEALTHCARE

Centre expands AMRIT network with 10 new pharmacies

The Union government has launched 10 new AMRIT pharmacies to improve nationwide access to affordable medicines and treatment

NEW DELHI

The Union government on Saturday expanded its Affordable Medicines and Reliable Implants for Treatment (AMRIT) programme by launching 10 new pharmacies across the country, reinforcing its commitment to making essential medicines and medical devices accessible at affordable prices. The announcement was made by Union Health Minister JP Nadda during an event in New Delhi marking the 10th anniversary of the AMRIT initiative.

Launched in 2015, the AMRIT pharmacy network has grown from a modest beginning to more than 255 operational outlets spread across 24 States and four Union Territories. In 2014, the government launched AMRIT and Jan Aushadi Centres with an aim to provide accessible, affordable, and equitable healthcare facilities to all people in the country, Nadda said while appreciating the success of the mission.

The newly inaugurated AMRIT centres will function at PGI Neuroscience Centre in Chandigarh, GMCH Unit-II and State Cancer Institute in Jammu, AIIMS Deogarh, Dental Hospital Srinagar, SCTIMST in Trivandrum, Mumbai Port Trust, IIT Jodhpur, AIIMS Gorakhpur, and AIIMS Kalyani Unit 3. These centres will cater to patients requiring medicines for critical treatments including oncology, cardiology, orthopaedics, and endocrinology.

Nadda emphasized that AMRIT pharmacies offer life-saving and essential drugs at prices up to 50 percent lower than their maximum retail price, without compromising on quality. The 50 per cent discount offered on branded medicines, especially for cancer and cardiac patients, is commendable, he said.

Currently, more than 6,500 drugs and medical products are available through the AMRIT network, which has benefitted over 6.85 crore patients nationwide. The minister highlighted that medicines worth over ₹17,000 crore have been dispensed through the programme so far, resulting in cumulative savings of more than ₹8,500 crore for patients.

STALIN ECI CRITICISM

Stalin welcomes Bihar verdict, but warns against EC's reckless actions

CHENNAI

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister and DMK president M.K. Stalin on Saturday said that while the Bihar Assembly election result was clear and decisive, it could not erase what he termed the misdeeds and reckless actions of the Election Commission of India (ECI).

In a strongly worded statement shared on social media platform X, Stalin accused the poll body of losing public trust and warned that its credibility had reached an unprecedented low.

Stalin congratulated Bihar Chief Minister-designate Nitish Kumar for his emphatic victory and acknowledged the role of effective messaging, governance and leadership in securing the mandate. He also praised RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav for what he described as a tireless and spirited campaign that resonated with young voters and energised the electorate.

Reflecting on the broader political lessons from the Bihar verdict, Stalin said election outcomes were never shaped by a single factor. Rather, they were an interplay of welfare delivery, ideological clarity, social coalitions and the credibility of those seeking public support. According to him, the Bihar mandate demonstrated that voters continue to reward consistent governance and clear communication.

Stalin noted that the INDIA bloc — of which the DMK is a key member — consists of seasoned leaders who fully understand the message sent by the Bihar electorate. He emphasised that the alliance must now undertake strategic introspection and recalibrate its approach in line with evolving public expectations ahead of future elections.

However, Stalin returned to the issue of the ECI with renewed criticism. He stressed that the institution must remain above suspicion, functioning in a manner that inspires confidence even among losing candidates. He cautioned that erosion of faith in the poll body would weaken the democratic fabric and undermine electoral legitimacy at a time when accountability is under intense national scrutiny.

Nowgam accidental blast: LoP Rahul expresses grief

NEW DELHI

Leader of the Opposition in Lok Sabha (LoP), Rahul Gandhi on Saturday expressed grief over the loss of 9 lives in an accidental blast in Nowgam Police Station in Jammu and Kashmir's (J&K) Srinagar, coinciding with the Congress' demand to convene an all-party meeting to discuss the growing threat of terrorism in the country.

The explosion at the Naugam Police Station in Jammu and Kashmir, which resulted in the death of several security personnel and injuries to many others, is extremely heartbreaking and concerning, wrote LoP Gandhi on X.

Rahul Gandhi said, Reports indicate that this horrific accident occurred during the investigation of explosives linked to the Red Fort attack. I pay humble tribute to the martyrs and hope for the swift recovery of the injured.

Jammu and Kashmir DGP Nalin Prabhat said that the explosion inside the Nowgam Police Station was unfortunate and dismissed any terror link, saying that other theories into the cause of this unfortunate incident were just unnecessary speculation.

The DGP told mediapersons, A huge quantity of explosive material from Faridabad was brought to Nowgam Police Station and kept securely in an open space.

Jharkhand celebrates silver jubilee, pays tributes to Munda

RANCHI

Jharkhand marked the 25th anniversary of its formation on Saturday with a grand state-level event at Morabadi Ground in Ranchi, drawing thousands of people from across the state.

Dignitaries, tribal representatives, schoolchildren, artists and citizens took part in the celebrations, which showcased cultural performances honouring the state's rich tribal heritage. Similar ceremonies, parades, sports activities and community gatherings were held in various districts to commemorate the milestone.

Jharkhand was officially formed on November 15, 2000, after being carved out of 18 districts of Bihar. It became the 28th state of the Indian Union following the passage of the Bihar Reorganisation Bill by Parliament on August 2, 2000. The foundation of the state was laid under the leadership of then Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee, whose government played a key role in fulfilling the longstanding demand for a separate tribal-majority state.

The date holds special significance as it coincides with the birth anniversary of Bhagwan Birsa Munda, the legendary tribal leader, freedom fighter and social reformer whose rebellion — the Ulgulan — against British oppression remains a powerful symbol of tribal resistance. This year marks the 150th birth anniversary of Birsa Munda, adding emotional and historical depth to the celebrations.

Chief Minister Hemant Soren extended his greetings to the people of Jharkhand while paying homage to tribal icons including Birsa Munda, Sidho-Kanho and Phool-Jhano. He reflected on the state's journey from struggle to stability, and from stability to prosperity, highlighting the progress made over the past 25 years. Soren also emphasized a future focused on inclusive development, stronger infrastructure, and protection of tribal rights and dignity.

Governor Santosh Kumar Gangwar praised the state's accomplishments across agriculture, industry, sports, arts and social welfare, calling the silver jubilee a testament to Jharkhand's resilience and achievements.

Cracks in Maha Vikas Aghadi: Cong plans to contest BMC polls solo

RANCHI

Crack have emerged in the Maha Vikas Aghadi alliance in Maharashtra, with the Congress planning to contest the BMC elections on its own.

Ramesh Chennithala, who is in charge of the Maharashtra Congress, said the state unit of the party has decided to contest the BMC elections solo. He said the local committee, taluka and district Congress units had urged that the party should contest all the 277 seats in the upcoming BMC elections.

"We conveyed this desire of our party leaders to the high command. The decision over contesting the BMC election solo will be taken by them," Chennithala said, adding that the move will not impact the MVA alliance.

"The opinions and demands of party workers are important in local body elections. This move will help the Congress party to strengthen and expand its base. It is also an opportunity for many loyal party workers to contest the elections," Chennithala said.

Bihar poll rout: Uddhav Sena accuses BJP-ECI collusion

MUMBAI

The Shiv Sena (Uddhav Balasaheb Thackeray) on Saturday vehemently criticised the Bihar Assembly election results, alleging a collusion between the Election Commission of India (ECI) and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) to secure the National Democratic Alliance's (NDA) victory.

Shiv Sena-UBT said that the results were not surprising and reflected a collapse of public trust in the electoral process.

The party's remarks appeared in an editorial in its mouthpiece, Saamana, titled 'Long Live Election Commission', which sharply accused the Election Commission of India and the BJP of acting in concert during the polls.

The editorial carried a sharp remark asking, When the watchman of elections himself helps the thieves, whom should the public trust?

It said the situation in the country had become serious and troubling, adding that it felt as if the unlimited reign of the Kauravas has begun over the Mahabharata and there is no end to it.

Calling the Bihar verdict a scam in Indian democracy, the editorial argued that elections had lost their meaning under the Modi-Shah regime.

The piece stated that any celebrations in Delhi after the Bihar result, with drums and trumpets, should not be mistaken for a simple victory gathering. Instead, it described the scene as a warning that the funeral procession of Indian democracy has begun.

The editorial questioned the credibility of the elections and said the atmosphere in the country had become troubling. At the same time, the editorial added that the Constitution had the strength to withstand setbacks and that public resistance would continue. According to the editorial, the Bihar verdict followed a pattern seen earlier in Maharashtra. It said the Maha Vikas Aghadi, which had expected a stronger performance in Maharashtra, failed to cross even 50 seats.

HANDLOOM, HANDICRAFT BOOM

Gujarat's Garvi Gurjari records handloom sales over Rs 17 crore

AHMEDABAD

Gujarat's handloom and handicraft sector has reported a strong revival, with Garvi Gurjari recording sales worth over Rs 17.5 crore between April and October 2025 through its emporiums and 34 craft fairs held within and outside the state.

The surge in demand for indigenous products has provided employment to more than 7,000 artisans, marking a significant push towards the vision of Aatmanirbhar Gujarat to Aatmanirbhar Bharat.

The sales figures also include government gift hampers and décor orders executed by the Handloom and Handicrafts Development Corporation.

Under Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel and Cottage Industries Minister Naresh Patel, and Minister of State Swaroop Thakor, the state has intensified efforts to promote local artisans and traditional crafts in line with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 'Har Ghar Swadeshi, Ghar Ghar Swadeshi' campaign.

To boost artisan incomes further, the corporation has issued purchase orders worth Rs 130.32 crore to craftsmen through its training-cum-production centres (TCPCs).

The corporation is now preparing for a fresh round of exhibitions in Delhi, Amritsar, Dehradun, Lucknow, Kolkata, Surat and Surajkund, aiming to expand market access for Gujarat's indigenous products.

Alongside, the state is running extensive promotional campaigns across radio, outdoor displays, and railway stations to strengthen the Centre's Vocal for Local initiative and encourage citizens to buy local.

Garvi Gurjari is also working to modernise traditional crafts by organising design workshops, training sessions, market-trend programmes and special design camps to help artisans adapt their products to contemporary demand.

The corporation says its efforts are helping Gujarat's rich handloom and handicraft heritage reach both national and global markets, directly translating into sustained livelihoods for thousands of artisans. Swadeshi products are available at Garvi Gurjari outlets across Gandhinagar, Ahmedabad, Vadodara, Bhuj, Salangpur, Libandi, Bharuch, Anand, Delhi, Hyderabad, Kolkata, Surendranagar, Ekta Nagar and Rajkot, as well as online at www.garvigurjari.gujarat.gov.in.

Chirag congratulates Nitish Kumar on triumph

NEW DELHI

After the announcement of the Bihar Assembly election results, Union Minister and LJP (Ram Vilas) chief Chirag Paswan on Saturday met Chief Minister Nitish Kumar and congratulated him on the NDA's sweeping mandate.

Paswan posted on X to mark the occasion, stating, After the Bihar Assembly Election results today, met with the Honourable Chief Minister of Bihar Shri Nitish Kumar Ji and extended hearty congratulations and best wishes to him for the NDA's resounding majority.

Speaking to reporters after the meeting, Chirag Paswan reaffirmed the solidarity and unity within the ruling alliance.

He said, After meeting the Chief Minister, I came to personally congratulate him and extend my best wishes. Under the leadership of Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, the NDA achieved a historic victory. As a representative of the Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas), I met him to convey our congratulations and good wishes...

Paswan's remarks come at a time when the NDA has consolidated its position in Bihar with a powerful, near-landslide performance. Leaders across the alliance have hailed the results as a mandate for stability and continuity.

Adding to Paswan's sentiments, LJP (RV) MP Rajesh Verma highlighted the party's impressive performance in the state polls. He said, It is quite natural that 19 MLAs from our party have won, and many of the seats allotted to us were tough seats. Despite this, the party won 19 seats with a large margin, and on 2–3 seats we lost by very small margins. With this massive mandate, the people of Bihar have clearly shown that there is no alternative to the NDA now. The condition and the numbers of the Mahagathbandhan clearly indicate that the Opposition has disappeared.

QUICK READ

LDA accuses Yunus of driving B'desh towards crisis

Dhaka

As political conflict continues to mount in Bangladesh, the Democratic Left Alliance (LDA) accused the interim government's Chief Advisor Muhammad Yunus of pushing the nation towards a long-term crisis in an attempt to appease the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), radical Islamist party Jamaat-e-Islami and National Citizen Party (NCP), local media reported. The remarks came after Yunus, in a recent address to the nation, announced that national elections and a referendum would be held simultaneously in the first half of February 2026. In a statement, the LDA, an alliance of six leftist parties alleged that Yunus' announcement regarding the implementation order of the July Charter.

DUBAI AIR SHOW 2025

IAF SURYAKIRAN, TEJAS ALL SET TO CONQUER DUBAI SKIES

The Indian elite contingent lands in Dubai; to showcase the country's aerial strength

DUBAI

An Indian Air Force (IAF) contingent, featuring the famed Suryakiran Aerobatic Team (SKAT) and indigenous Tejas fighter aircraft, has arrived at Al Maktoum Airbase ahead of the Dubai Airshow 2025. The international aviation event, scheduled from November 17 to 21, will witness India showcasing its aerial precision, technological capabilities, and growing defence partnerships in the Middle East.

The Dubai Airshow 2025 is expected to be one of the largest editions yet, with more than 1,500 exhibitors, 490 official delegations, and over 200 aircraft on display. Announcing the arrival, the IAF posted on its official X handle: An IAF contingent comprising of Suryakiran Aerobatic Team and Tejas fighters landed at Al Maktoum Airbase, Dubai for the Dubai Air Show.

Adding to the momentum, the Suryakiran team's official X account declared, Hello Dubai! Suryakirans touch down in Al Maktoum Airport to participate in the prestigious Dubai Airshow 2025!

Formed in 1996, the Suryakiran Aerobatic Team is globally acclaimed for its precise formation flying. Equipped with Hawk Mk-132 aircraft, the team has performed over 700 displays worldwide, symbolizing professionalism and aerial excellence. Their participation reinforces India's intent to promote homegrown aviation talent and technology on a global platform.

A key highlight of India's presence this year is the Tejas Light Combat Aircraft — a symbol of the 'Make in India' defence initiative. The fighter will participate in both static and aerial displays, showcasing its agility and modern avionics to international audiences and defence partners.

Wing Commander Ashish Sudhir Moghe of the IAF stated that nearly 180 personnel are part of the deployment, supported by C-17 Globemaster and C-130J aircraft that transported equipment and helicopters from the Sarang team.

The IAF contingent will perform alongside globally recognized aerobatic groups, including the Saudi Hawks, Russian Knights, and UAE's Al Fursan, marking another proud chapter in India's expanding defence diplomacy.

India-Paraguay scale up bilateral ties at first JCM in Asuncion

ASUNCION

The meet serves as a comprehensive platform to review ongoing cooperation and identify new areas of partnership

India and Paraguay held the inaugural Meeting of the Joint Commission Mechanism (JCM) in Asuncion, marking a key step toward deepening bilateral relations.

The meeting, announced by the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) on Saturday, served as a comprehensive platform to review ongoing cooperation and identify new areas of partnership.

The session was co-chaired by Paraguay's Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs, Ambassador Victor Verdun, and MEA Secretary (East) Periasamy Kumaran. Both sides reaffirmed the positive momentum in their diplomatic engagement, especially in the wake of Paraguayan President Santiago Pena Palacios' recent State visit to India. The visit was hailed as a milestone, boosting political dialogue and paving the way for multi-dimensional cooperation.

India also welcomed the formation of the Parliamentary Friendship Commission for India in Paraguay's National Congress — a move that is expected to further strengthen legislative exchanges and diplomatic goodwill.

According to the MEA, discussions at the meeting spanned a wide range of sectors including political and economic relations, technology, energy, education, trade, health, civil aviation, tourism, water management, space cooperation, and sustainable development. Both sides also exchanged views on multilateral collaboration and coordination in international forums.

The two nations identified key priority areas to expand ties. These include agriculture, renewable energy — with a special focus on solar power, biofuels, information and communication technologies, cybersecurity, public health, railway development, infrastructure, water resource management, and capacity-building initiatives.

US judge bars Trump from cutting funding to UCLA

CALIFORNIA

In a significant legal development, a federal judge has ruled that the Trump administration cannot immediately cut federal funding or impose fines on the University of California (UC) system based on allegations that it allows antisemitism and other forms of discrimination on its campuses. The decision marks a temporary halt to the administration's efforts to penalize the institution while legal arguments continue to unfold.

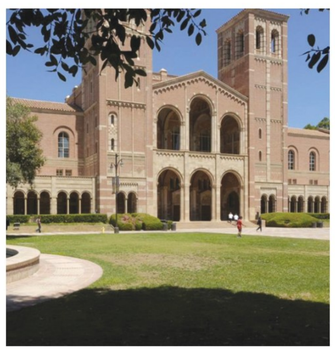
The case stems from complaints filed by several groups accusing the UC system of failing to adequately protect Jewish students from harassment and discriminatory incidents, particularly those linked to campus debates over Israel and Palestine. The Trump administration had argued that federal law empowers the government to withdraw funding from institutions that do not prevent discrimination based on shared ancestry or ethnic characteristics — protections that they say include Jewish students.

However, the judge noted that punitive actions such as funding cuts or fines require thorough legal review and due process. The court emphasized that the administration did not provide sufficient evidence to prove the university system was in violation of federal civil rights laws. As a result, the ruling prevents the government from taking immediate punitive action while the case proceeds.

The University of California welcomed the ruling, stating that it remains committed to maintaining an inclusive environment for all students, and highlighting that the system already has measures in place to address discrimination and hate speech. UC officials stressed the importance of safeguarding academic freedom and open dialogue while ensuring safety on campuses.

While the injunction blocks immediate federal action, it does not end the investigation. Legal experts say the case could influence how future administrations enforce civil rights policies related to antisemitism and other forms of discrimination in educational institutions.

The ruling represents a broader national debate over free speech, discrimination, and the federal government's role in regulating campus environments.



UN Security Council to vote on Trump Gaza plan on Nov 17

UNITED NATIONS

The United Nations Security Council is preparing to vote on Monday, November 17, 2025, on a resolution that would formally endorse U.S. President Donald Trump's proposed peace plan for Gaza. Diplomats confirmed that the draft resolution is now in its final stage of discussion, marking a pivotal moment in the ongoing diplomatic effort to secure lasting peace after two years of conflict between Israel and Hamas.

The vote follows a week of intense closed-door negotiations led by the United States, which circulated a draft text among the 15 Council members. The resolution is expected to build upon the fragile ceasefire agreement that has halted major hostilities in the Gaza Strip, where violence has claimed thousands of lives and displaced countless families since the conflict escalated.

According to diplomatic sources, the draft resolution outlines key components of Trump's peace framework — including a phased withdrawal of forces, international oversight of humanitarian corridors, and a roadmap toward political dialogue between Israeli and Palestinian representatives. The U.S. has framed the initiative as a realistic path to peace, emphasizing security guarantees for Israel and reconstruction support for Gaza.

However, the resolution is expected to face scrutiny, particularly from permanent Security Council members who have previously expressed concerns about unilateral or U.S.-centric peace proposals. Russia and China have already indicated they will seek clarity on certain provisions, while non-permanent members are pushing for language reaffirming the two-state solution under international law.

If passed, the resolution would mark a significant diplomatic victory for the Trump administration and signal renewed UN engagement in Middle East peace efforts. However, if it fails, it could deepen divisions within the Council and create new obstacles for long-term peace initiatives. As the vote approaches, global attention is focused on the Security Council chamber, where the next chapter of Gaza's future will likely be decided.

Trump exempts key food imports from tariffs amid rising prices

WASHINGTON

US President Donald Trump has signed a new executive order exempting a wide range of food products from his sweeping import tariffs, marking a significant shift in his trade policy. The move comes amid mounting public and political pressure over rising prices, particularly following the Republican Party's disappointing results in last week's elections.

The exemption list, released by the White House, includes everyday staples such as coffee, bananas, avocados, tomatoes, coconuts, mangoes, and beef. The administration stated that these items cannot be produced in sufficient quantities domestically, making their exemption necessary to stabilize supply and prices.

Trump's tariff program currently includes a baseline 10 percent duty on imports from all countries, with higher levies targeting specific trading partners. For years, he has insisted that tariffs would not lead to price hikes for American consumers, dismissing affordability concerns as a con job pushed by Democrats. However, the economic reality — and increasing voter frustration — has forced a strategic recalibration.

Beef prices, in particular, have become a political flashpoint. Last week, Trump responded by calling for a federal investigation into the meat-packing industry, accusing companies of engaging in Illicit Collusion, Price Fixing, and Price Manipulation.

As inflation concerns deepen, Trump has also floated a $2,000 tariff rebate cheque to American households to offset rising costs — a move that critics say highlights the economic strain caused in part by his own trade policies.

Meanwhile, the legality of Trump's tariffs remains under scrutiny, with the US Supreme Court currently reviewing whether the executive branch had authority to impose them in the first place.

Despite these challenges, Trump continues to defend his broader strategy as essential to reducing the US trade deficit. He has long argued that tariffs are necessary to counter foreign cheaters and boost domestic manufacturing. But with food prices climbing and political fallout growing, this latest exemption order signals a rare retreat in his tariff-first approach.

China issues summons Japanese envoy over PM Takaichi's Taiwan remarks

BEIJING

China has escalated diplomatic tensions with Japan by urging its citizens to avoid traveling to Japan and summoning the Japanese ambassador in Beijing, following controversial remarks made by Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi regarding Taiwan.

The sharp exchange marks the latest flare-up in an already strained relationship rooted in historical grievances, territorial disputes, and the sensitive question of Taiwan's sovereignty. The diplomatic storm began after Takaichi suggested that Japan could deploy its Self-Defense Forces if China launched an attack on Taiwan. Responding to a parliamentary query last week, she stated that armed hostilities involving China and Taiwan could qualify as a survival-threatening situation under Japan's 2015 security legislation. Under that law, Japan is permitted to come to the aid of allies if an attack is deemed to endanger Japan's own national security.

If there are battleships and the use of force, no matter how you think about it, it could constitute a survival-threatening situation, Takaichi said, signaling a potential shift in the country's stance on regional security. Beijing reacted swiftly, condemning Takaichi's comments as egregious and accusing Japan of interfering in China's internal affairs.

SU DO KU

Brain-Bender: Can You Solve It?

5	2		7	4		3		6
9		8	2		3	7		5
6			1	5		4	8	
3	7	5	9			2		
4		9	6		2			1
1			4		5		3	
			5	9	7	6	2	
		6	3	1		8	5	
7	5		8		6		4	9

6	2	4	3	7	1	5	8	9
1	8	3	9	6	5	7	4	2
9	7	5	8	4	2	6	1	3
5	9	2	6	8	3	1	7	4
4	3	7	1	5	9	2	6	8
8	6	1	7	2	4	9	3	5
3	4	9	2	1	7	8	5	6
2	1	8	5	3	6	4	9	7
7	5	6	4	9	8	3	2	1

Solutions to Yesterday's puzzle

Fill a 9×9 grid with numbers so that each row, column and 3×3 section contain all of the digits between 1 and 9.

HEALTH CONCERN

Ethiopia confirms first-ever Marburg virus outbreak

ADDIS ABABA

Ethiopia has officially recorded its first-ever outbreak of Marburg virus disease, a highly lethal viral haemorrhagic fever, the World Health Organization (WHO) confirmed.

Laboratory results have verified nine cases in the South Ethiopia Region, marking a worrying new chapter for the country's public health system. The outbreak is centred in Jinka town, where several suspected cases were recently identified and tested.

So far, nine cases have been recorded in Jinka town, where the outbreak is currently concentrated

Marburg virus, which belongs to the same family of pathogens that cause Ebola, has an alarming case fatality rate of up to 88 percent. It spreads to humans from fruit bats and then through direct contact with bodily fluids of infected individuals, or via contaminated surfaces. There is currently no approved antiviral drug or vaccine for the disease, making early detection and containment critical.

Patients typically exhibit symptoms such as high fever, intense headaches, muscle pain, and profound fatigue. Many progress to severe internal and external bleeding within a week, often leading to fatal outcomes without supportive care.

According to WHO, Ethiopia's Health Ministry rapidly confirmed the outbreak through genetic testing, which revealed that the strain matches those previously detected in East African countries. This places Ethiopia alongside other African nations that have faced Marburg outbreaks, including Angola, Ghana, Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, and South Africa.

The virus's natural host is the Rousettus aegypti fruit bat, commonly found across the region. Public health experts warn that human encroachment into bat habitats could be increasing viral spillover risks.

In response, Ethiopian authorities have begun widespread interventions including case isolation, contact tracing, and community screening. Public health campaigns are underway to educate residents about transmission risks and early symptom identification.

The WHO, alongside international partners, is assisting Ethiopia in scaling up its emergency response to contain the outbreak and prevent further spread. The situation remains under close global monitoring as health teams work urgently to break the chain of transmission.

QUICK READ

Gold rises weekly despite sharp drop

New Delhi

The 24-carat gold prices ended the week higher, rising by Rs 4,694 to Rs 1,24,794 per 10 grams, but slipped from their peak after the US government shutdown ended. Prices saw a sharp intraday fall of nearly Rs 5,000 on Friday before recovering. International gold also weakened as hopes of an early US Federal Reserve rate cut faded following hawkish comments by Chair Jerome Powell. Analysts said bullion still posted one of its strongest weekly gains in a month due to safe-haven demand. They expect softness to continue unless uncertainty rises or the Fed changes its policy outlook in coming days ahead.

Office leasing, luxury housing boost real estate sector

New Delhi

India's real estate outlook strengthened in Q3 2025, driven by strong office leasing and steady demand for premium homes, according to the Knight Frank–NAREDCO report. The Current Sentiment Score rose to 59, while the Future Sentiment Score stayed at 61. Stable liquidity, easing inflation, and consistent policies boosted confidence among developers and investors. Most respondents expect steady economic momentum, improved funding, and stable or rising office rents due to limited Grade A supply. The South Zone led sentiment with strong leasing in Bengaluru and Hyderabad, while the North Zone showed recovery and the East Zone saw a slight dip.

Experts welcome India's new digital privacy rules

New Delhi

Industry experts have welcomed the government's notification of the Digital Personal Data Protection Act (DPDPA) Rules 2025, marking India's first full digital privacy framework. The new rules require social media platforms and all data-handling organisations to clearly explain what information they collect and how it will be used. Experts said the move brings India into a new era of trust, especially as AI relies heavily on user data. The rules allow users to revoke consent easily and complain to the Data Protection Board. Companies now have 18 months to comply, with experts stressing that privacy must become a long-term organisational culture.

Govt moots fresh relief to boost nationwide SEZ growth

The Commerce Ministry explores practical ways to use extra capacities in these zones, so that more goods can be supplied to the Indian market

VISAKHAPATNAM

The government is considering new relief steps to help Special Economic Zones grow faster and increase their production. Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal shared these plans during his visit to the Brandix textile units located in the Andhra Pradesh SEZ.

He said the ministry is exploring practical ways to use extra capacities in these zones so that more goods can be supplied to the Indian market. This, he explained, could also reduce imports, since goods arriving from abroad sometimes receive better benefits than supplies made by SEZ units to domestic buyers.

Goyal noted that the government aims to bridge this gap and hopes production across SEZs will rise sharply soon. The ministry is also examining what more can be done to support these zones. His visit was part of the CII Partnership Summit 2025, where he interacted with industry leaders and reviewed local infrastructure.

He added that all SEZ Commissioners have been asked to assemble in Visakhapatnam next week. They will tour Brandix Park and the Andhra Pradesh MedTech Zone to understand how high-quality infrastructure should be built and maintained. This experience, he said, will help improve SEZ standards across the country.

When asked if a new bill would be introduced in Parliament to implement these changes, Goyal said the ministry is reviewing every possibility. This includes legal amendments or rule-based changes. Industry representatives have long requested permission for SEZ units to sell goods in the domestic market by paying duty only on inputs, which they believe would help improve value addition. At present, SEZ products sold in the domestic market attract duties on the final goods.

Venezuela explores stronger ties with 'growing' India

NEW DELHI

'The South American nation is now looking at cooperation in critical minerals and hopes to draw more Indian investment into its growing sectors'

Venezuela has shown fresh interest in building stronger economic ties with India, especially in areas beyond the traditional oil trade.

According to the Commerce Ministry, the South American nation is now looking at cooperation in critical minerals and hopes to draw more Indian investment into its growing sectors.

This development came after a meeting between Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal and Venezuela's Minister of Ecological Mining Development, Hector Silva, during the 30th CII Partnership Summit in Visakhapatnam.

During the meeting, Goyal stressed the need to revive the India-Venezuela Joint Committee Mechanism, which has been inactive for ten years. He also pointed out that ONGC's ongoing work in Venezuela offers new room for partnership in mining and exploration. Goyal suggested that Venezuela consider accepting the Indian Pharmacopeia, which would make it easier for Indian pharmaceutical companies to expand trade. He also highlighted fresh opportunities in the automobile sector, noting that Indian companies could explore production and investment prospects.

India has benefited from importing heavy crude oil from Venezuela after the United States relaxed sanctions on the country in 2024. This has encouraged India to further widen its trade relationship. Earlier this year, Venezuela's Vice President Delcy Rodriguez visited India during the Energy India Week event and met Petroleum Minister Hardeep Singh Puri for detailed discussions.

Speaking at the Vizag CII Partnership Summit, Goyal said the world could benefit by partnering with India as the country expands economic connections promoting shared global prosperity. He shared three key suggestions for stronger global cooperation: boosting two-way investments, deepening technology partnerships, and strengthening trust among global partners. India, he said, aims to shape the new geo-economic landscape with a focus on technology, fairness, and capability-driven trade.

Trump rolls back food tariffs amid rising prices

WASHINGTON

U.S. President Donald Trump has cut tariffs on more than 200 everyday food items such as beef, coffee, bananas, tomatoes and orange juice. The move comes as Americans continue to struggle with high grocery bills and growing concerns about inflation. The tariff rollback took effect retroactively at midnight on Thursday and marks a major shift from Trump's earlier position that his import duties were not contributing to higher prices. Speaking aboard Air Force One, Trump admitted the tariffs "may in some cases" raise prices but claimed overall inflation in the U.S. remains low.

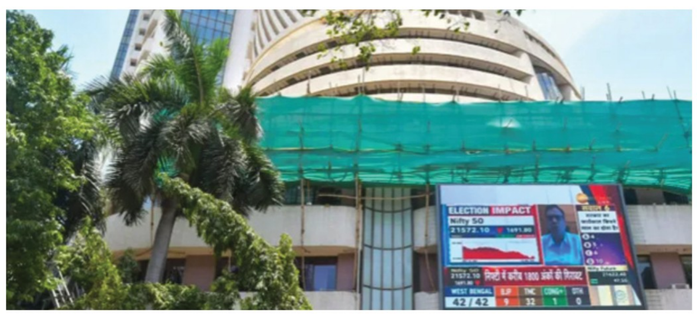
The administration also announced new trade frameworks with Argentina, Ecuador, Guatemala and El Salvador, which will eliminate tariffs on selected food products once fully approved. More trade deals may be finalised before the year ends. Many of the items on the updated tariff-free list are goods that American households purchase frequently and that have seen sharp price increases over the past year. Ground beef is up nearly 13 per cent, while steak prices have risen almost 17 per cent, the fastest jump in more than three years.

Industry groups welcomed the tariff relief, saying it could help lower prices for consumers and reduce costs for companies that depend on imported ingredients. However, some sectors expressed disappointment that their products were not included. Meanwhile, Democrats criticised the administration, accusing Trump of reversing course on policies that contributed to inflation in the first place.

IT pharma healthcare and auto stocks gained, as sentiment improved after NDA's Bihar win, though fading hopes of US Fed cuts triggered profit-booking in IT

Stock markets end week on strong note after Bihar NDA sweep

MUMBAI



Indian stock markets finished the week on a firm footing, supported by strong domestic indicators, easing inflation, and the NDA's landmark victory in the Bihar elections.

Analysts said the resolution of the US government shutdown and better-than-expected second-quarter results also lifted investor sentiment. Record-low inflation in October strengthened expectations of an upcoming RBI rate cut, helping the markets maintain steady momentum.

Sectoral gains were broad, with IT, pharma, healthcare, and auto stocks showing positive movement earlier in the week. Vinod Nair of Geojit Investments said investor confidence improved as the week progressed, especially after the NDA secured a decisive win in Bihar. However, declining hopes of a quick US Federal Reserve rate cut led to profit-booking in IT stocks, slightly cooling their earlier gains.

On Friday, markets traded under pressure for most of the day, shifting between small losses and brief recoveries. A strong rebound in the late afternoon eventually pushed the indices into positive territory. Volatility increased as investors closely tracked the Bihar election results, which became the day's main driver.

Weak global cues also weighed on sentiment. Wall Street had slipped sharply the previous night, led by a fall in major technology companies like Nvidia, as inflation concerns reduced expectations of near-term rate cuts. Despite the uncertainty, the Sensex closed 84 points higher at 84,563, while the Nifty gained 31 points to end at 25,910.

Sector performance was mixed. PSU banks led the gains with a rise of over one per cent, followed by strength in pharma and FMCG stocks. IT declined slightly, while auto, metal, and realty sectors ended lower. In the broader market, the Nifty Small-cap 100 climbed 0.38 per cent and the Midcap 100 added 0.08 per cent.

IRB Infra Trust wins NHAI's TOT Project

NEW DELHI

IRB Infrastructure Trust has secured a significant Toll Operate and Transfer (TOT) Project from the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) in Uttar Pradesh for an upfront payment of ₹9,270 crore.

The announcement was made through an exchange filing on Saturday. This project falls under NHAI's ongoing asset monetisation plan, which aims to raise funds for building and upgrading national highways across the country.

According to the company, IRB Infrastructure Trust has received the official Letter of Award for a bundle that covers 366 kilometres of key highway stretches. These include sections of the Lucknow–Ayodhya–Gorakhpur corridor on National Highway 27 and parts of the Lucknow–Varanasi corridor on National Highway 731. The project will operate under a revenue-linked concession for a period of twenty years. IRB Infrastructure Developers, which manages the trust, confirmed the development and highlighted the importance of this stretch due to its rising religious and regional tourism.

Virendra D. Mhaiskar, Chairman and Managing Director of IRB Infrastructure Developers, described the TOT 17 project as a major achievement. He said the win strengthens the company's already strong position in the TOT market, giving the IRB platform an impressive 42 per cent share in this segment. He added that the corridor plays an important role in connecting major pilgrimage locations and supporting regional economic growth.

IRB Infrastructure Developers is the largest private toll road developer in India, with assets worth over ₹80,000 crore across twelve states. Through its parent company and two infrastructure investment trusts, IRB continues to expand its presence in national highway development, offering long-term experience in tolling, operations, and large-scale road management.

ED gets custody of builder amid money laundering probe

NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate has arrested Swaraj Singh Yadav, managing director of Ocean Seven Buildtech Company, for investigation, following raids unearthed cash and documents linked to wrongdoings.

Officials said searches were held across several Delhi NCR locations. The agency recovered eighty-six lakh rupees believed to be proceeds. Investigators found digital evidence showing suspicious money movements by Yadav. The ED claims he diverted homebuyer funds through secret methods. These methods included cancelling units and reselling them at premiums. He allegedly used shell companies to hide large cash amounts. Investigators said he hid extra money with different family members. A pattern of quick asset sales was noticed across states. These sales were reportedly meant to avoid possible legal action. Officials revealed his wife and children had moved to America. The probe says he used dual payment systems for transactions. Only small amounts were routed through banks during those deals. Most payments were reportedly collected in cash from buyers directly. These actions are part of several cheating and forgery cases. Following his arrest he was presented before a special court. The court granted the agency fourteen days of custody today. He will remain in custody until late November this year. The agency must bring him back when custody ends again. Officials say more investigation will help recover stolen homebuyer money. They aim to freeze assets gained through alleged illegal activities. The agency hopes to return recovered amounts to affected families. More evidence collection is planned across several related project sites. Officials expect cooperation from victims who purchased homes in projects. The investigation continues as the agency reviews all gathered records.

AP CM terms Sri City one of India's best industrial townships

VISAKHAPATNAM

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu on Saturday inaugurated five new industrial units in Sri City through a virtual ceremony. He also witnessed the signing of agreements for 12 more upcoming projects worth over Rs 2,300 crore during the 30th CII Partnership Summit held in Visakhapatnam. These new projects cover engineering, food processing and pharmaceutical sectors, and are expected to create more than 12,000 jobs.

According to an official release, the newly approved projects will bring an investment of around Rs 2,320 crore. Speaking at the event, the Chief Minister praised Sri City, calling it one of the best industrial townships in India. He said several well-known companies like Daikin, Isuzu and Cadbury are already manufacturing and exporting products from there.

Naidu urged industries from across the world to consider Sri City for their operations. He shared that the state has already approved investments worth Rs 8.8 lakh crore from companies in Belgium, Japan, the UK, Germany, Australia and other nations across healthcare, engineering, electronics, automobiles and medical devices.

The Chief Minister also announced that 6,000 acres of land will soon be added to Sri City to support future growth.

GROWTH LIFTER

EDF helps inflate India's tech startup ecosystem

NEW DELHI

The Electronics Development Fund (EDF) has played a major role in strengthening India's technology ecosystem by investing nearly Rs 258 crore in eight specialised Daughter Funds.

These funds have supported a large number of tech startups and helped create more than 23,600 jobs across the country.

According to an official statement, these Daughter Funds have together deployed over Rs 1,335 crore into 128 startups and ventures, contributing to significant growth in advanced technology sectors. Their efforts have also resulted in the creation or acquisition of 368 intellectual properties, showing strong progress in innovation-driven work.

The Electronics Development Fund usually keeps a minority share in each Daughter Fund, which encourages greater private investment and professional fund management. The supported startups are working in fast-growing fields such as the Internet of Things, robotics, drones, autonomous vehicles, HealthTech, cybersecurity, artificial intelligence, and machine learning. These areas are expected to define the future of global technology, and India is positioning itself as a strong player through such investments.

Out of the 128 startups backed so far, Daughter Funds have exited from 37, earning returns of nearly Rs 174 crore. This shows that the investment model is not only helping new companies grow but is also generating healthy financial results. By offering early risk capital, the fund has enabled many startups to work confidently on cutting-edge technologies and contribute to India's efforts in expanding domestic design and intellectual property.

The Electronics Development Fund was launched in February 2016 to promote research, development, and entrepreneurship in electronics, nano-electronics, and information technology. It also supports India's goals in the Electronics System Design and Manufacturing sector by helping the country reduce import dependence and strengthen self-reliance through the acquisition of foreign technologies when needed.

LAC STRATEGIC BOOST

NYOMA

INDIA'S HAWK EYE that looks straight into CHINA'S HEART

The airbase, which is 13,700 feet above sea level and only 25 km from China's Line of Actual Control in Ladakh represents a significant step in India's China readiness

High in the freezing mountains of Ladakh, India is building something extraordinary — the world's highest airbase where fighter jets can actually operate. The Nyoma airfield, sitting at about 13,700 feet above sea level, is being transformed from a simple mud airstrip into a full military airbase capable of handling everything from massive transport planes to fighter jets and attack helicopters. This isn't just another construction project. It's a clear message to China, and it could change how India defends one of its most sensitive border regions.

LAC INDIA-CHINA STANDOFFS

The Line of Actual Control (LAC) is the unofficial border between India and China in these high mountains. Unlike normal international borders, the LAC isn't clearly marked or agreed upon by both countries. India and China have different ideas about where it should be, which is why soldiers from both sides often come face-to-face during patrols, and tensions keep building. The Nyoma airbase is just 40 kilometers from this disputed line, right next to the Indus River near Nyoma village in Leh district.

1 Basic airfield to extraordinary

This airfield has an interesting history. It was first built in 1962 but then abandoned for decades. The Indian Air Force brought it back to life in 2009 when an AN-32 transport aircraft successfully landed there during a trial run. Since then, it's been used regularly by transport planes and helicopters to move soldiers, weapons, and supplies to troops stationed in this impossibly remote area. But until now, it was just a basic airstrip with very limited facilities.

2 Realisation for better military infra

Everything changed after the 2020 stand-off with China near the LAC. That tense confrontation made India's government realize just how badly we needed better military infrastructure in Ladakh. In 2021, work began to completely upgrade Nyoma under Project Himank, run by the Border Roads Organisation. The project costs around ₹220 crore and includes building a strong 3-kilometer runway, a proper air traffic control tower, hangars to shelter aircraft, and blast pens — special protective shelters that keep fighter jets safe from enemy bombs and artillery fire.

3 Major boost to strategic airlift

Once completed, Nyoma will allow giant transport aircraft like the C-17 and IL-76 to land and take off regularly. These massive planes can carry tanks, rocket launchers, air defence systems, and hundreds of soldiers at once. Imagine being able to fly in an entire battalion with all their heavy weapons in just a few hours instead of waiting days for road convoys through dangerous mountain passes. That kind of speed gives India a huge tactical advantage — we can respond faster, surprise the enemy, and reinforce positions before anyone can react.

4 Keeping China under close radar

But it's not just about transport planes. Fighter jet squadrons will rotate through Nyoma, meaning some jets and pilots will be stationed there temporarily. Drones and Apache attack helicopters, which are already in Ladakh after the 2020 tensions, will also operate from here. Having combat aircraft permanently based so close to the LAC does two things — it warns China that we're watching and ready, and it massively improves our surveillance and intelligence-gathering along the disputed border.

6 Need for longer runway, lesser load

But here's the reality check — Nyoma also has serious vulnerabilities. At 13,700 feet, it's the third-highest airfield in Ladakh. The weather here is absolutely brutal. Winter temperatures plunge to –40°C, with heavy snow and fierce winds that can ground all aircraft for days. The air is so thin at this altitude that jet engines produce much less power. This means aircraft need much longer runways to take off, and they can carry only about half their normal load of fuel, weapons, or cargo. That's a massive operational limitation.

7 Locational drawbacks

Storing fuel and lubricants in such extreme cold is incredibly difficult, and sensitive electronic equipment can malfunction or stop working in these temperatures. Then there's the biggest danger — Nyoma's location. Being just 40 kilometers from the LAC makes it extremely vulnerable to Chinese artillery fire and small tactical drones that are nearly impossible to detect. The base is also exposed to electronic warfare, where enemy jamming signals can disrupt our radars, communications, and navigation systems.

Access is another major problem. Nyoma is in an extremely remote location, and the few roads connecting it can be easily blocked by landslides, snow, or enemy attacks. Some military experts worry that while Nyoma gives us a strong advantage at the start of any conflict, it might become a liability once China focuses its firepower on it.

8 Bold move, but need to play smart

So yes, India's new sky-high airbase at Nyoma is a bold and necessary step forward in defending our borders. It gives us speed, reach, and the ability to project power right where we need it most. But we must also be realistic about its limitations and ensure we have backup plans, strong defenses, and alternative supply routes. In the high-stakes game being played in the Himalayas, Nyoma could be our ace — but only if we play it smart.

Girish Linganna
Defence and Space Analyst

INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR TOLERANCE – NOV 16

Tolerance: The true key to peace, co-existence

The International Day of Tolerance is observed every year on November 16 to promote tolerance and to spread awareness among people about peace, sensitivity, harmony, and emotional wellness. Its purpose is to eliminate the growing feelings of violence, war, terror, and negativity in the world, and to strengthen the message of non-violence

A ray of hope amid rising intolerance

At a time when atrocities, terrorism, violence, and injustice are increasing globally, this day holds special relevance for inspiring people toward sensitivity and the value of tolerance. It encourages harmony among different religions and diverse cultures. It is not just a formal observance, but an urgent call to safeguard the future of humanity. While the world is touching new heights of development and technology, it is simultaneously sinking into the depths of intolerance, violence, war, terror, and rage. This contradiction reveals that no matter how advanced human beings become outwardly, if there is no light of tolerance, patience, and compassion within, even the most glittering civilizations can collapse.

Binding factor

In today's stressed environment, tolerance is the most powerful force that binds human relationships together. It is not a weakness but an inner strength that enables us to understand, accept, and respect views different from our own. Growing intolerance among individuals, societies, and nations is the root cause of war, hatred, and hostility; it is also the fuel behind communal violence and fanaticism. Intolerance, hate speech, fear, and animosity toward others are not only powerful drivers of conflict and war but their primary cause. Tolerance, on the other hand, is the unifying force that holds together our multicultural, multireligious, and multiethnic world. Intolerance does not merely tear apart the social and political fabric; it also harms the nation's economy, its development, and its international standing.

In an age of globalization, tolerance is vital for strengthening global financial and trade systems. It plays a crucial role in personal life as well, especially when changing lifestyles and social environments are rapidly eroding human patience.

Need for bridging communication gap

The increasing wars, religious extremism, racial conflicts, ethnic clashes, and the waves of hatred flowing across social media indicate how rapidly the fire of intolerance is spreading. In such situations, tolerance becomes not just a social value but the very foundation of humanity. Intolerance arises when human beings stop communicating, when the culture of listening weakens, and when personal ego overshadows collective harmony. The greatest deficiency in today's world is the lack of dialogue, patience, and the ability to respectfully accept diversity.

Making tolerance a way of life

The International Day of Tolerance reminds us that the future of humankind depends on how much we accept, how much we understand, and how generously we live. Our times demand that politics promote dialogue, religion spreads compassion, and society cultivates sensitivity. If we make tolerance not merely a thought but a way of life, then not only will our personal lives become peaceful, but the world will become safer, more beautiful, and more humane. This is the true message of tolerance—and the greatest necessity of humanity.

Ripple effects of overreactions

Tolerance is as essential in personal life as it is in international relations. Homes are filled with tension because we are losing the patience to listen to one another. Relationships break because we refuse to accept differences. Modern individuals have become increasingly reactive; even mild criticism unsettles them. If we light the lamp of tolerance within ourselves, life can become simpler, more beautiful, and more peaceful. The need for tolerance in politics has become more urgent than ever before. Politics determines the direction of a nation. When intolerance, disrespect, arrogance, and hatred enter politics, they spread throughout society. Today, political discourse is becoming harsh, and democratic dialogue is threatened by the negativity of opposition and the rise of divisive rhetoric. The true purpose of politics is public service and national progress, and this is possible only when ideas are respected, discussions are valued, and leaders remain willing to listen even to dissenting voices. Mature leadership unites people; it does not fuel hatred or division. Tolerance enriches politics with maturity and tempers the arrogance of power with human sensitivity.

The spirit of coexistence

Tolerance is equally essential in the realm of religion because the true essence of religion is peace, compassion, love, and harmony. When religion becomes a tool of bigotry and narrowness, when people consider their faith superior and others inferior, the true spirit of religion is destroyed. Mahavira, Buddha, Jesus, Muhammad, and Gandhi—all taught that religion is meant to purify the mind and protect humanity, not to divide and create conflict. Religious tolerance is a measure of a society's spiritual elevation. The spirit of coexistence is the foundation on which a better world can be built. We live on the same earth, we belong to the same human family, and regardless of religion, language, caste, or culture, our destinies are interlinked. If we learn to live together with mutual respect, the world can move beyond violence and conflict toward harmony and prosperity.

Lalit Gargg ,Columnist

IPL 2026: RR swap Nitish Rana for Donovan Ferreira with DC

A busy pre-auction trade window reshapes several IPL squads

MUMBAI

The Rajasthan Royals and Delhi Capitals have carried out a significant player exchange ahead of the IPL 2026 mini-auction, marking one of the most talked-about trade moves of the season. Rajasthan Royals have traded left-handed batter Nitish Rana to Delhi Capitals, while the South African all-rounder Donovan Ferreira will now return to his first IPL team, the Royals. Rana has been traded at his existing price of ₹4.2 crore. Ferreira's fee, however, has been increased from ₹75 lakh to ₹1 crore as part of the deal. Rana played 11 matches for RR in the 2025 season, scoring 217 runs at an average of 21.70 while mostly batting at number three.

The experienced batter has won the IPL twice, first in 2017 with Mumbai Indians under Rohit Sharma's leadership, and later in 2024 with Kolkata Knight Riders.

After seven seasons with KKR, Rana was released in 2024 and then picked up by Rajasthan Royals for the 2025 season.

Ferreira began his IPL journey with RR in 2024 and later joined Delhi Capitals for the 2025 edition.

His return to Rajasthan marks another step in RR's effort to strengthen their middle order and power-hitting options.

In another headline-making move, Rajasthan Royals have traded long-time captain Sanju Samson to Chennai Super Kings.

In exchange, RR have received senior all-rounder Ravindra Jadeja and England's Sam Curran. Samson, who has been with RR since 2013 and led them to the 2022 final, joins CSK at his existing price of ₹18 crore.

Jadeja's revised fee stands at ₹14 crore, while Curran moves at ₹2.4 crore.

Another major development saw fast bowler Mohammed Shami traded from Sunrisers Hyderabad to Lucknow Super Giants.

Shami, who has played 119 IPL matches and taken 133 wickets, joins LSG at his unchanged price of ₹10 crore.

Australia's Hazlewood out of first Ashes Test

PERTH

Australia's fast-bowling department has suffered yet another setback ahead of the first Ashes Test in Perth, with senior pacer Josh Hazlewood ruled out due to a hamstring injury. The news comes soon after regular captain Pat Cummins was declared unavailable for at least the opening Test as he continues to recover from a back injury.

Hazlewood picked up the injury during New South Wales' Sheffield Shield match against Victoria in Sydney, where he was forced to leave the field mid-game. While early scans showed no muscle damage, Cricket Australia later confirmed that follow-up tests revealed a low-grade hamstring injury. According to the board, initial imaging can sometimes miss such minor strains, making detection difficult.

Australia's pace stocks are now heavily depleted. Sean Abbott, Lance Morris, Jhye Richardson, Spencer Johnson, Cummins and Hazlewood are all sidelined, leaving the selectors with limited options just days before the series begins. To fill the gap, Michael Neser has been added to the squad for the opening Test starting November 21 at Perth Stadium.

Hazlewood's absence could offer an opportunity to South Australia pacer Brendan Doggett, who is in line for a potential Test debut. Hazlewood has been in fine form recently, claiming 14 wickets in the ongoing World Test Championship (WTC) 2025–27 cycle and delivering strong performances both in the recent white-ball series against India and in his latest Shield outing.

Australia will aim for a strong start to maintain their lead in the WTC standings. England, currently sixth, will look to claim their first Test win on Australian soil in an Ashes series since 2013.

AUSTRALIA'S SQUAD FOR FIRST TEST

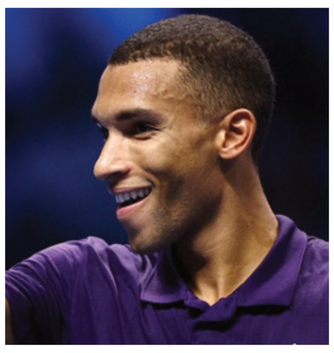
- Steve Smith (capt)
- Scott Boland
- Alex Carey
- Brendan Doggett
- Cameron Green
- Travis Head
- Josh Inglis
- Usman Khawaja
- Marnus Labuschagne
- Nathan Lyon
- Michael Neser
- Mitchell Starc
- Jake Weatherald
- Beau Webster

Felix sets up semifinal clash against top-ranked Alcaraz

TURIN

Felix Auger-Aliassime reached the semifinals of the ATP Finals after defeating two-time champion Alexander Zverev 6-4, 7-6(4) in a straight-sets battle on Friday. The win secured the Canadian second place in the Bjorn Borg Group, setting up a semifinal clash with world number one Carlos Alcaraz. Italian star Jannik Sinner topped the group after a 6-3, 7-6(3) win over Ben Shelton earlier in the day.

Felix began the tournament poorly, losing his first three sets and appearing headed for



an early exit. However, a strong comeback victory over Shelton revived his campaign, and his latest win over Zverev — a two-time ATP Finals title holder — has boosted his confidence heading into the last four.

This is a high-value tournament for players.

It is like a grand finale, he told ATP's official website. You want to be in the final, but I will have to go through a great player to do that.

The win also marked Felix's 50th tour-level victory of the season, making him only the second Canadian after Milos Raonic in 2016 to reach the ATP Finals semifinals. He has now beaten Zverev twice this year, including their meeting in the US Open third round, though the German still leads their overall head-to-head 6-4.

Both players struggled with consistency in the second set, and while Zverev showed frustration, Felix kept his composure.

After missing three break points earlier in the set, he steadied himself in the tiebreak to close the match in two hours and seven minutes. He was getting chances, but I came up with big serves to save them, Felix said. Felix now chases his fourth title of the year after winning trophies in Adelaide, Montpellier and Brussels, and continues to lead the decade with 85 indoor match wins.

3rd Hockey India Junior Women's Academy Championship begins today

NEW DELHI

The 3rd Hockey India Junior Women Academy Championship 2025 (Zones A and B) will begin at Kurukshetra University, Haryana, on Sunday, November 16, bringing together young players from top academies across the country. The championship, an important part of Hockey India's grassroots development system, will conclude with the final on November 23. A total of fifteen academy teams are set to compete in the week-long event. They have been divided into four pools — Pool A, Pool B, Pool C, and Pool D — and matches will be played in a round-robin format. The top two teams from each pool will advance to the semifinals scheduled for November 21, followed by the third-place match and the final on November 23. The opening match will see Ghumanhera Riser's Academy face Tamil Nadu Hockey Academy, a fixture expected to set the tone for a competitive tournament. In Pool A, the teams include the Odisha Naval Tata Hockey High Performance Centre, Mumbai Schools Sports Association, and Sports Authority of Gujarat Hockey Academy.

Pathan urges Punjab to strengthen bowling backup options

NEW DELHI

Former India all-rounder Irfan Pathan has advised Punjab Kings to add strong backup options for their two key bowlers — ace leg-spinner Yuzvendra Chahal and left-arm pacer Arshdeep Singh — ahead of the IPL 2026 auction. He shared his views during JioStar's IPL 2026 'Retention Preview' show, stressing the importance of building depth in the bowling unit.

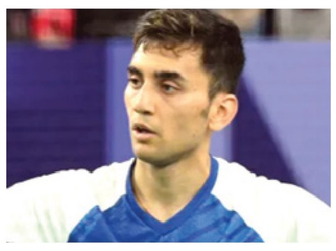
Chahal, bought for ₹18 crore in the IPL 2025 mega auction after being released by Rajasthan Royals, played a major role in Punjab reaching the final last season.

Despite missing two games due to a wrist injury, he claimed 16 wickets in 14 matches and remained Punjab's most reliable middle-overs bowler.

Arshdeep, retained using the Right to Match (RTM) card for ₹18 crore, was another key pillar for the franchise. He became Punjab Kings' all-time leading wicket-taker in IPL 2025, finishing the season with 21 wickets in 17 matches and continuing his rise as one of India's premier T20 bowlers. Pathan said Punjab must address two main factors before the auction. With Chahal being such a key spinner, having a dependable backup is essential. And while Arshdeep is irreplaceable, they should still have an Indian fast-bowling backup available, he suggested.

Meanwhile, former Australia opener Matthew Hayden spoke about Lucknow Super Giants' struggles last season, pointing to internal issues and injury-hit bowling resources. He said releasing Anrich Nortje to Kolkata Knight Riders could prove beneficial, as LSG lacked stability and depth early in the season.

Former India and CSK batter Subramaniam Badrinath also discussed LSG's plans, saying the franchise made a wise investment in captain Rishabh Pant, who cost ₹27 crore. Although Pant had a below-par season, Badrinath believes he is yet to reach his peak and remains capable of making a major impact. However, he agreed that Lucknow's biggest challenge continues to be strengthening their bowling attack.



Lakshya Sen loses to Nishimoto, bows out of Japan Masters

KUMAMOTO

India's lone remaining hope at the Japan Masters, Lakshya Sen, exited the tournament on Saturday after a tough three-game semifinal defeat to Japan's Kenta Nishimoto. The BWF World Tour Super 500 event, held in Kumamoto, saw the hometown favourite overcome Sen 21-19, 14-21, 21-12 in a contest marked by shifting momentum and high-pressure rallies. Lakshya made a strong start in the opening game, racing to an 8-3 advantage with sharp court coverage and quick winners. But Nishimoto responded with a decisive seven-point surge, using steep smashes and tight placements to regain control. Despite Lakshya clawing back to level the score late in the game.

India announce 23-man squad for Asian Cup qualifier

BENGALURU

Indian men's football head coach Khalid Jamil on Saturday named a 23-member squad that will travel to Dhaka, Bangladesh, for the AFC Asian Cup Saudi Arabia 2027 Qualifiers Final Round Group C match scheduled for November 18. The team has been training in Bengaluru since November 6 and will fly to Dhaka on Saturday evening, the All India Football Federation (AIFF) said in a press release.

A major talking point in the squad is the presence of forward Ryan Williams, who recently received his Indian passport. While he will travel with the team, his participation in the match will depend on a No Objection Certificate from Football Australia, followed by final approvals from FIFA and the AFC.

The squad includes three goalkeepers — Gurpreet Singh Sandhu, Hrithik Tiwari and Sahil — ensuring strong depth at the back. The defensive unit features a mix of experience and promising young talent, with Akash Mishra, Sandesh Jhingan, Rahul Bheke, Anwar Ali, Jay Gupta, Bikash Yumnam, Pramveer, and Hmingthanmawia Ralte included.

In midfield, Jamil has opted for energetic and versatile players such as Suresh Singh Wangjam, Mahesh Singh Naorem, Brison Fernandes, Lalremtluanga Fanai, Nikhil Prabhu, and Macarton Louis Nickson. Their role will be key in maintaining structure and possession in a high-pressure away fixture.

The attacking department consists of Edmund Lalrindika, Rahim Ali, Mohammed Sanan, Lallianzuala Chhangte, Vikram Partap Singh, and Ryan Williams. Their task will be to convert chances and secure a crucial win for India as they continue their quest to qualify for the Asian Cup.

The travelling staff includes Assistant Coach Mahesh Gawali, Goalkeeping Coach Feroz Sherif, and Strength and Conditioning Coach Chelston Pinto, who will support Jamil in preparing the squad for the important fixture.

PARIS

Croatia seal World Cup spot as Netherlands edge closer

Croatia confirmed their place in the 2026 World Cup after a 3-1 win over the Faroe Islands on Friday. The visitors shocked early with a goal, but Croatia quickly took control through strikes from Josko Gvardiol, Petar Musa and Nikola Vlasic. The win put Croatia six points clear in Group L with one game left. The Netherlands also moved close to qualification after a 1-1 draw in Poland, helped by Memphis Depay's record 55th international goal.

Germany, however, remain unsure. A 2-0 win over Luxembourg kept them top of Group A, but they still need at least a draw against Slovakia on Monday to confirm their spot.

KOLKATA

India gain slim lead in tight test

India gained a 30-run lead in the first Test after being restricted to 189/9 on day two. South Africa struck early through Simon Harmer and Marco Jansen, who shared seven wickets. India's lower order collapsed after brief resistance from Ravindra Jadeja and Dhruv Jurel. Shubman Gill did not bat due to a neck spasm.South Africa began their second innings cautiously but lost Rickelton for 11 to Kuldeep Yadav just before tea, ending the session at 18/1, trailing by 12 runs. Earlier, India resumed at 37/1 and faced steady pressure, losing wickets at regular intervals despite efforts from KL Rahul, Washington Sundar and Rishabh Pant. The match remains evenly balanced.

DUBAI

ICC unveils Women's Emerging Nations Trophy schedule

The ICC on Saturday announced the schedule for the first ICC Women's Emerging Nations Trophy T20I, to be held in Bangkok from November 20 to 30. The tournament marks a major step in expanding women's cricket worldwide. Eight Associate Member teams — Thailand, Netherlands, Papua New Guinea, UAE, Scotland, Namibia, Tanzania and Uganda — will compete in a round-robin format at two Bangkok venues. Thailand, the highest-ranked side, enter with a nine-match winning streak. ICC CEO Sanjog Gupta said the event will give emerging players more top-level experience, improve team competitiveness and inspire more women and girls to take up the sport.

Shreemurali launches trailer of 'The Task'

The trailer of the Kannada film The Task was officially launched at an event held on Thursday in a private hotel in Bengaluru. The film, which features new talents in lead roles, is set to release on November 21. Earlier, the title and teaser had already created excitement among Kannada movie fans. Roaring Star Shreemurali attended the event as the chief guest and released the trailer. MLA Satish Reddy and the full film team were also present.

After unveiling the trailer, Shreemurali praised the team. He said actors Sagar and Surya were fortunate to work with director Raghu Shivamogga. He shared that he has been following Raghu's work since Churikatte and admired his direction, writing, and ideas. Calling him an intelligent filmmaker, Shreemurali said that if Churikatte were released today, it would run for 100 days. He added that both lead actors looked energetic and urged Kannadigas to watch The Task on November 21 and support the newcomers.

MLA Satish Reddy also spoke about the film, calling it a wonderful effort. He said Kannadigas should watch it and support the young talent. He recalled how producer Rajesh once helped students who failed their 10th exams by paying their re-exam fees, describing it as his admirable task.

Directed by Raghu Shivamogga, who earlier impressed audiences with Churikatte, the film is inspired by real-life incidents. The cast includes Jayasurya R. Azad, Sagar Ram, and child artist Baby Shreelakshmi in key roles. The film is produced by Vijay Kumar and Ramanna under the Lokapoojya Picture House banner. Raghu has also acted in the film, which features Achyuth Kumar, Shreelakshmi, Gopalakrishna Deshpande, Harini Srikanth, Aravind Kuplikar, Sampath Maitreya, B.M. Giriraj, and Balaji Manohar.

Harshaali Malhotra set for her debut in 'AKHANDA 2'

Harshaali Malhotra, known to millions as Munni from the 2015 hit Bajrangi Bhaijaan, is set to return to the big screen after nearly a decade. The young actress is reportedly joining the cast of Akhanda 2, the sequel to the blockbuster Telugu film starring Nandamuri Balakrishna. This marks her debut in South Indian cinema and her first major film role since her childhood breakthrough.

Harshaali became a nationwide favourite when she played the mute girl Munni in the Salman Khan–starrer Bajrangi Bhaijaan. Her expressive performance won hearts across the world. After years away from films, she confirmed her comeback through an emotional social media post. In her message, she said Munni was not just a character but a memory that stayed with her, adding that she spent the years preparing to return as a more mature performer.

Akhanda 2, directed by Boyapati Sreenu, brings back Balakrishna in the lead. The film has already generated huge excitement, especially after the release of its first single, The Thaandavam, at a grand event in Mumbai.

Harshaali was seen at the launch, standing beside Balakrishna, and her appearance drew admiration from fans who noted how gracefully she has grown.

The film is produced by Ram Achanta and Gopichand Achanta, with music by S. Thaman and presentation by M. Tejaswini Nandamuri. As anticipation builds, Harshaali's return to cinema and her entry into Telugu films have become major talking points among fans and film lovers.

FARHAN AKHTAR announces special paid preview for '120 Bahadur'

The makers of Farhan Akhtar's upcoming war drama 120 Bahadur have announced special paid previews across India on November 18, marking the 63rd anniversary of the Battle of Rezang La. The film, which highlights the bravery of 120 Indian soldiers who fought in the 1962 battle, will officially release in cinemas on November 21.

Farhan Akhtar shared the announcement on social media, calling it a first-of-its-kind initiative in Hindi cinema. He said audiences would get the chance to watch the film three days before its nationwide release. Bookings for the preview shows opened on Friday. Produced by Excel Entertainment and Trigger Happy Studios, the film aims to honour the courage and sacrifice of the Rezang La warriors.

120 Bahadur features Raashii Khanna in an important role. The cast also includes Sparsh Walia, Vivan Bhatena, Dhanveer Singh, Digvijay Pratap, Sahib Verma, Ankit Siwach, Devendra Ahirwar, Ashutosh Shukla, Brijesh Karanwal, Atul Singh, Ajinkya Deo and Eijaz Khan. Directed by Razneesh 'Razy' Ghai, the war drama is expected to deliver an emotional and patriotic narrative.

Recently, Raashii Khanna paid tribute to army wives with a heartfelt message on social media. She wrote about the silent strength of women who support their families while their husbands serve on the frontlines, calling it a story of pride mixed with pain.

With the special previews planned nationwide, 120 Bahadur is drawing significant attention ahead of its release, promising a powerful retelling of one of India's most remarkable battles.

Kaalam Maari Pochu director V Seker passes away

Veteran Tamil filmmaker V Sekar, known for his warm and relatable stories about middle-class families, passed away on Thursday at the age of 72. He had reportedly been unwell for the past few months. Sekar is survived by his wife Tamilselvi and two children, Malarkodi and Karl Marx. Born in Tiruvannamalai, Sekar began his journey in cinema as an assistant to noted director K Bhagyaraj. His directorial debut, Neengalum Herothan (1990), earned praise for its simple and grounded storytelling. Over the years, Sekar became well known for films that reflected everyday life, human emotions, and social concerns in a manner that felt close to home for many viewers.

Sekar's most memorable films include Varavu Ettana Selavu Pathana, Naan Petha Magane, and Kaalam Maari Pochu. These movies continue to be loved for their humour, emotional warmth, and strong social messages. His style of filmmaking, marked by honesty and gentle satire, made him a favourite among middle-class audiences across Tamil Nadu. Following news of his passing, fans and film lovers took to social media to pay tribute. Many recalled watching his films with their families during their childhood and praised his ability to portray life's struggles with humour and heart.

GULSHAN KUMAR, T-SERIES AND COLOUR YELLOW PRESENT
AN A. R. RAHMAN MUSICAL
TERE ISHK MEIN
A FILM BY AANAND L RAI
IN CINEMAS 28TH NOVEMBER 2025
தமிழ் हिन्दी తెలుగు

Dhanush–Kriti's 'Tere Ishk Mein' trailer triggers mixed online buzz

The trailer of Tere Ishk Mein, starring Dhanush and Kriti Sanon and directed by Aanand L. Rai, has sparked strong reactions online. The film, which appears to blend romance, heartbreak and revenge, shows Dhanush in a dual transition—from an intense lover to an Indian Air Force pilot. Kriti Sanon plays a woman who struggles with addiction after their painful separation. The trailer, running for over three minutes, hints at a dramatic narrative filled with action, emotion and conflict.

Once the trailer was released, social media quickly filled with mixed responses. Many appreciated the chemistry between Dhanush and Kriti and praised the powerful visuals. One user wrote that the trailer was a perfect blend of love, madness and energy, adding that the film's release on November 28 now feels too far away. Another viewer shared that they watched the trailer multiple times, praising Dhanush's intensity and Kriti's emotional performance.

However, not all reactions were positive. A section of netizens questioned the storyline, expressing concern over yet another revenge-driven love story. One comment read, Is it necessary to shove a revenge theme into every love story nowadays? Another user criticised the tone of the trailer, saying they could not finish it because it glorified outdated ideas of love and violence.

Despite the mixed reviews, many fans expressed excitement over Aanand L. Rai's return with Dhanush, hoping for another memorable collaboration. As discussions continue online, Tere Ishk Mein has already become one of the most talked-about upcoming releases.

K-Ramp to stream on Aha from today

The romantic comedy K-Ramp, starring Kiran Abbavaram and Yukti Thareja, has begun streaming on Aha Video less than a month after its theatrical release. The film, which opened on October 18 during the Diwali weekend, received a mixed response in cinemas but is now set to reach a wider audience online.

Aha Video confirmed the premiere earlier, calling the movie a mind-blowing entertainer and inviting viewers to stream it from today. The early OTT arrival gives those who missed the film in theatres a chance to watch it at home.

K-Ramp follows the story of Kumar, a pampered and wealthy young man who grows up enjoying his father's success. His carefree lifestyle

makes him egoistic yet charming, until his father sends him to Kerala to learn discipline. There, Kumar meets Mercy Joy, a kind woman dealing with PTSD. Understanding her struggles forces Kumar to rethink his behaviour and develop empathy and emotional responsibility.

The film features a wide supporting cast including Anannyaa Akula, Vennela Kishore, Sai Kumar, Naresh, Ali, Sivannarayana Naripeddi, and others. Ajay and Vimala Raman make brief cameo appearances. Directed and written by Jains Nani, the movie is produced by Razesh Danda, Balaji Gutta, and Shiva Bommak under Hasya Movies and Rudransh Celluloids. The music is composed by Chaitan Bharadwaj with cinematography by Sateesh Reddy Masam.

According to early estimates, the film collected around ₹17.48 crore net in India during its first 11 days. Kiran Abbavaram will next appear in Chennai Love Story and is also working on KA2, the sequel to his 2024 fantasy thriller KA.

Prabhas is preparing for a major phase in his career with a strong lineup of large-scale films and a new collaboration with Naatu Naatu choreographer Prem Rakshith. According to reports, the duo will work together on a pan-India project described as a visual spectacle. Details about the film are being kept secret, but sources say a major announcement is expected soon.

Following the massive success of Kalki 2898 AD, Prabhas has lined up multiple releases through 2026. His first release will be The Raja Saab, touted as India's costliest horror comedy, scheduled for January 9, 2026. Directed by Maruthi, the film stars Malavika Mohanan, Nidhhi Agerwal, Riddhi Kumar and features Sanjay Dutt in a negative role.

Next, Prabhas will lead Hanu Raghavapudi's period action drama Fauzi, set in the pre-independence era. The cast includes Imanvi, Mithun Chakraborty, Jaya Prada and Anupam Kher. The film is reportedly targeting an August 14, 2026 release. Both films are expected to strengthen Prabhas's reach across the country.

In addition, Prabhas is set to begin work on Spirit, a cop action drama directed by Sandeep Reddy Vanga. The film will go on floors in late 2025 and promises to showcase the actor in a transformed avatar. Spirit also features Vivek Oberoi, Triptii Dimri and Prakash Raj in key roles.

With three major releases ahead and a fresh partnership with Prem Rakshith, Prabhas appears ready to dominate the box office once again, building momentum with high-budget, wide-appeal projects designed for national and global audiences.

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